

KIRKMAN • WALKER • OTTLEY • CRABTREE

# INVINCIBLE™



VOLUME TWO

## EIGHT IS ENOUGH

Introduction by Erik Larsen



**image** COMICS PRESENTS

# INVINCIBLE

EIGHT IS ENOUGH



CREATED BY  
**ROBERT KIRKMAN  
& CORY WALKER**

**image**



## CHAPTER ONE

Writer, Letterer

Robert  
Kirkman

Penciler, Inker

Cory  
Walker

Colorist

Bill  
Crabtree

## CHAPTER TWO

Writer, Letterer

Robert  
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Penciler, Inker

**Cory Walker**

Colorist

**Bill Crabtree**

**DARKWING SEQUENCE**

**TERRY STEVENS**

PENCILER & INKER

**RED RUSH SEQUENCE**

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PENCILER

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INKER

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**GREEN GHOST &**

**MARTIAN**

**MAN SEQUENCE**

**CLIFF RATHBURN**

PENCILER & INKER

### CHAPTER FOUR

Writer, Letterer

**Robert  
Kirkman**

Penciler, Inker

**RYAN  
OTTLEY**

Colorist

**Bill  
Crabtree**





## INVINCIBLE INTRODUCTION

by Erik Larsen

Robert Kirkman has inextricably wormed his way into my life.

It started out innocently enough. Robert was a rabid Savage Dragon enthusiast and he'd arranged to interview me for some nitwit Internet outfit. I saw no reason to say no figuring that any publicity was good publicity and all the rest. The introduction having been made, Robert took his first step toward wiggling himself irreversibly into my life.

Robert was, at the time, working on a little independent book called Battle Pope in which he had taken a few of the themes I'd touched on in Savage Dragon and nudged them a few steps further in the direction of poor taste. Robert had the notion of sticking Savage Dragon into a yarn and managed to talk me into it. Another step.

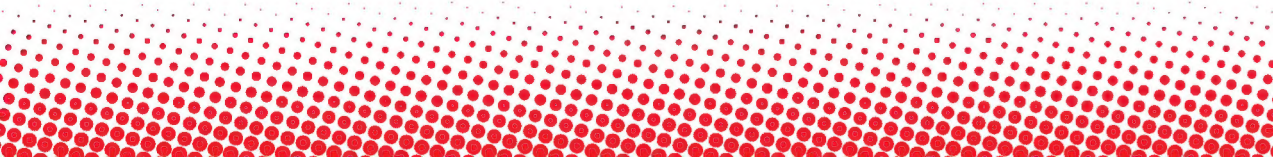
Robert offered to haul my exhausted carcass to the airport after a convention in Chicago. It took him a week and a half to find the place but we arrived nevertheless, I miraculously made my flight and I was forever in his dept.

It was just where he wanted me.


I'm not sure what possessed young Cory Walker to dash off a splendid SuperPatriot pinup for inclusion in an issue of Savage Dragon but in all likelihood Robert put him up to it. Robert Kirkman and Cory Walker were all set to pitch a

book called Science Dog to Image and Robert most likely thought it would be a dandy notion to get in the good graces with one of the founding fat-heads over at that half-assed organization.

The ploy worked. Both Jungle Jim Valentino and Erroneous Eric Stephenson were enthusiastic about said pulse-pounding pinup. They





A decorative border at the top of the page consisting of a dense pattern of red dots of varying sizes, creating a halftone or dotted effect.

weren't quite as taken with the scintillating Science Dog pitch but thought it might be a good start for these fine fellows if I could convince them to perhaps do something with SuperPatriot while they brainstormed on a more Image-worthy effort.

Like I had to twist their arms...


I let the boys loose on SuperPatriot, giving them only the smallest suggestions to help guide them on their way. They batted out a spiffy miniseries in two shakes of a lamb's tail to the thunderous applause to everyone that happened across it.

It was solid entertainment for the funnybook dollar right out of the gate.


Robert's next step was pointing me in the direction of Mighty Mark Englert. Mark had taken it upon himself to begin illustrating an unused plot for an abandoned miniseries that I'd printed in the back pages of an issue of Savage Dragon. It was a way for him to scrape some samples together to try and break into this beastly biz. Mark would have, no doubt, shown me his energetic efforts himself at an upcoming comic book convention but Robert beat him to the punch and added yet another feather to his cap in the process. Offering to letter the story Mark had pencilled once I'd arranged to have it run in Savage Dragon only helped ingratiate himself to me.

By this point, Robert was practically family. I'd have invited him over to Thanksgiving dinner if I thought that it would balance the books but I suspected my wife wouldn't stand for his sorry sucking up related shenanigans. Besides, that kid looked like he could put away more than his fair share of turkey.

When it was decided that Image would launch a few new superhero books, Robert and Cory concocted a character called Invincible. As it turned out, their prodigious project needed no push from me. I could

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score no brownie pointclaiming to have horsewhipped those inbred idiots at Image into picking up their book—the fine folks at Image central had nothing but high praise for their peerless pitch. They made that perfectly clear and green-lit their marvelous mag in a heartbeat and a half.

But I owed Robert Kirkman. I knew it and he knew it.  
And he wouldn't have it any other way.


Robert has often said to me, "I'm stealing all of your moves" but I'm so far in his debt how could I begin to get pissed? *Invincible* was, as they say, a critical hit. Critics adored it even though some retailers neglected to order it in suitable numbers. Still, it had a good buzz about it, sales were climbing and people seemed to genuinely love the book. Stealing my moves or not, Robert was making all the right moves. In a short while Robert was adding other Image titles to his ever-growing Image workload.

Cory, on the other hand, seemed to have hit a wall. Pages came slower and slower. The pressures of a monthly book were something Cory was not prepared for.


The book began to fall behind schedule.

In short order Cory ground to a near halt and it became apparent that he wasn't going to continue. Robert, with Cory's blessing, called in a few favors. Enter: me, Mark Englert and a handful of other fellows looking to help out the poor guy in his time of need. I inked Mark's pristine pencils just as I was doing over on the *Mighty Man* backup story in *Savage Dragon*. Cory Walker concluded his run and managed to outshine us all on his way out the door. Knowing he could no longer keep up, Cory graciously stepped aside, for the good of the book.

So, what was Robert to do now—with his partner in crime and *Invincible*'s co-creator, Cory Walker, no longer in tow? If it were anybody else I'd suggest to him that he call it a day and fold up his tent. What chance would





A decorative pattern of red dots of varying sizes, arranged in a dense, overlapping manner, covering the top portion of the page.

a series have with the odds stacked so seriously against it? Here was a book, the sole semi-success story in a superhero launch that failed to catch fire, which was slipping swiftly off schedule and had lost a good chunk of its drawing power with the sudden departure of a rising talent that gave it visual vitality! What chance would it have in this maddeningly competitive market?

A damned good chance as it turned out.

Raucous Robert Kirkman struck gold—again! He managed to dig up yet another hungry, talented, fresh-faced illustrator eager to take the comic book world by storm! Enter: Ryan Ottley! His first effort, reprinted here, was a worthy accomplishment from a capable newcomer but in a matter of a few issues, produced at an amazing pace, Ryan Ottley not only managed to get the book back on schedule but grew into a terrific artist in his own right in the process of doing it! It's safe to say that not only is the book back on track but that its future has never looked brighter!

So, how does Robert do this? Is he that talented? Well, sure, there is a good deal of that, no question. But it's more than that. This is a guy who's a fan. A fan of comics, a fan of superheroes, and he's got an inexhaustible enthusiasm and drive that is not only amazing to behold but infectious as all hell. This guy wants to produce comics. He wants to produce good comics—and he'll do anything in his power to accomplish that goal.

And if he can ingratiate himself to an alleged big shot like me to the extent that I'm willing to stay up well past my bedtime writing a halfwit introduction to his second Invincible collection on a night when I desperately need some shuteye so that I can get those little nippers of mine off to school in the morning—all the better.

Robert Kirkman is a hell of a guy.

Invincible is one hell of a comic.

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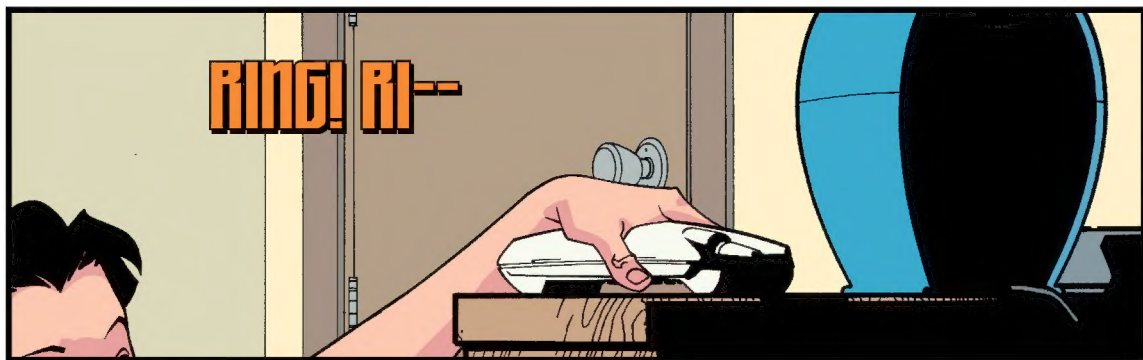


# CHAPTER ONE



OUCH.









DEBBIE, I NEED TO  
SPEAK WITH MARK.  
QUICK! OKAY, HON...  
I'LL GO GET  
HIM.

I GOT  
IT, MOM.  
YOU CAN  
HANG  
UP.



WHAT'S  
GOING ON,  
DAD?

PAY ATTENTION,  
SON... I'M NOT  
GOING TO HAVE  
TIME TO REPEAT  
ANY OF THIS.

I  
NEED YOUR  
HELP.



OKAY.

I'M ON  
AN IMPORTANT  
MISSION WITH THE  
GUARDIANS OF THE  
GLOBE THAT WELL...  
YOU DON'T REALLY  
WANT TO KNOW ANY  
DETAILS ABOUT,  
TRUST ME.



ANYWAY, I JUST GOT  
ALERTED TO A MAJOR  
BADDIE COMING INTO  
OUR SOLAR SYSTEM,  
HEADED STRAIGHT  
FOR EARTH.

I'VE FOUGHT THIS GUY  
BEFORE, HE'S NOT OUT  
OF YOUR LEAGUE, BUT  
HE'S GOING TO BE  
THE TOUGHEST GUY  
YOU'VE FACED  
SO FAR.



I'M NOT WORRIED.  
WHAT DO YOU WANT  
ME TO DO?

JUST  
BEAT THE  
GUY UP, KEEP  
HIM FROM  
ENTERING EARTH'S  
ATMOSPHERE AND  
RUNNING AMOK.  
IT'S NOT ROCKET  
SCIENCE.

YOU'VE  
GOT ABOUT  
TWELVE  
MINUTES TO  
GET INTO  
ORBIT.



OKAY,  
DAD. GOT  
IT.

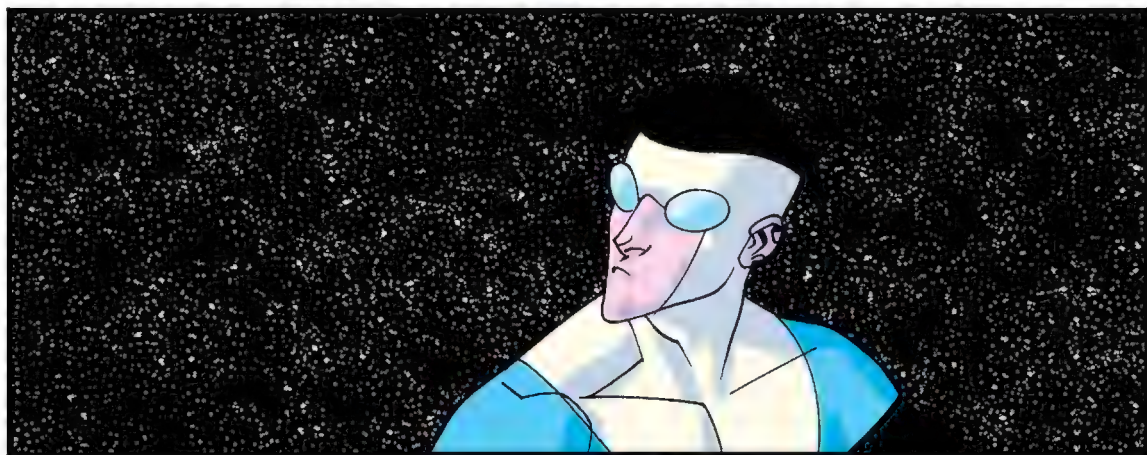
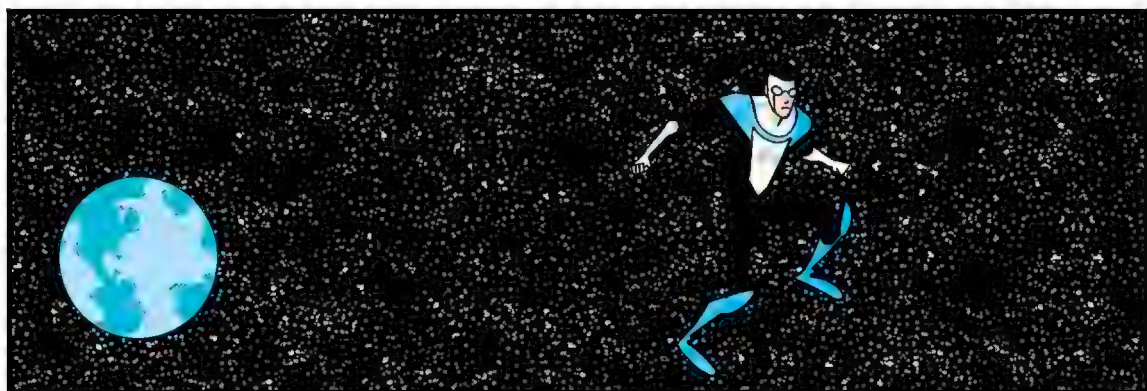










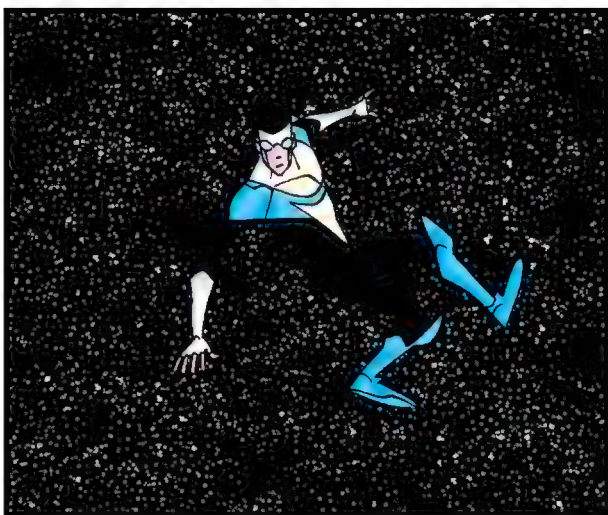
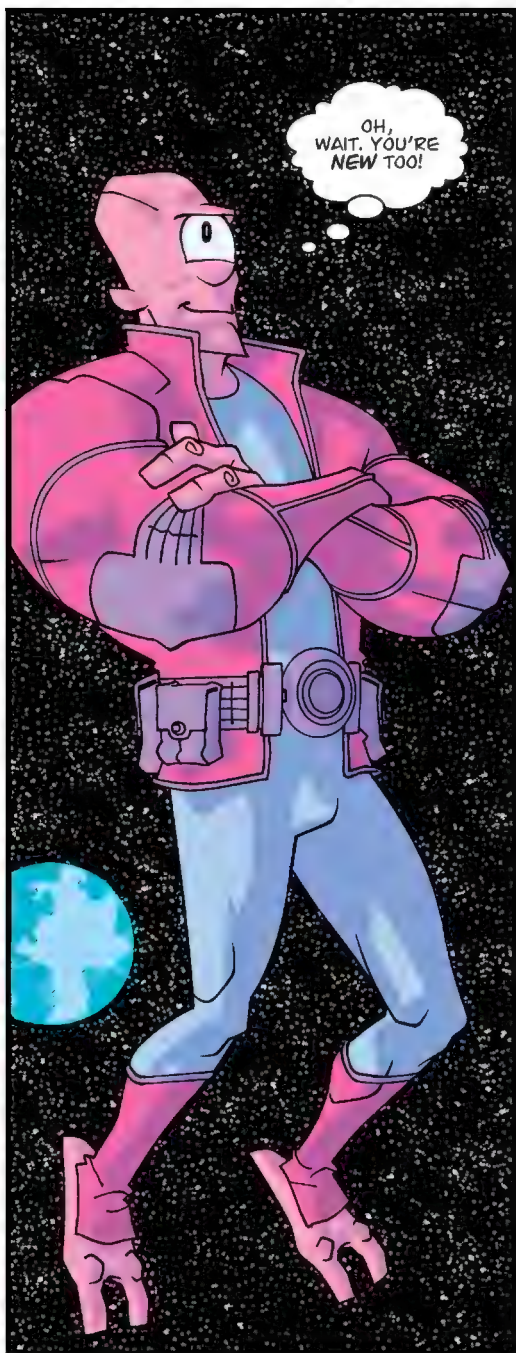




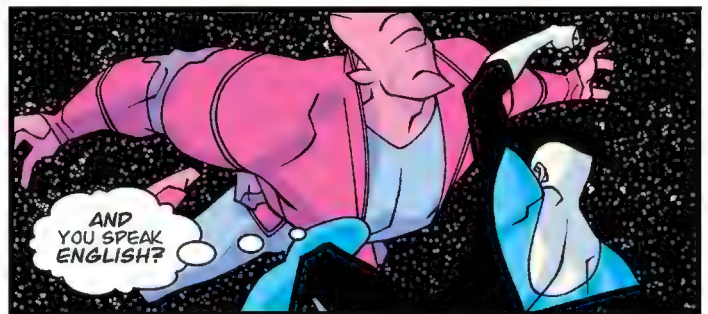
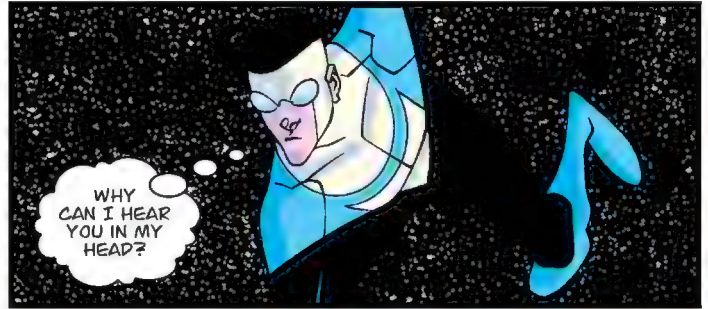


YOU'RE  
EARLY!

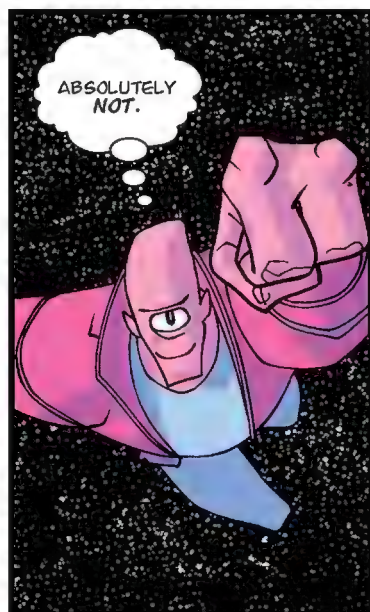
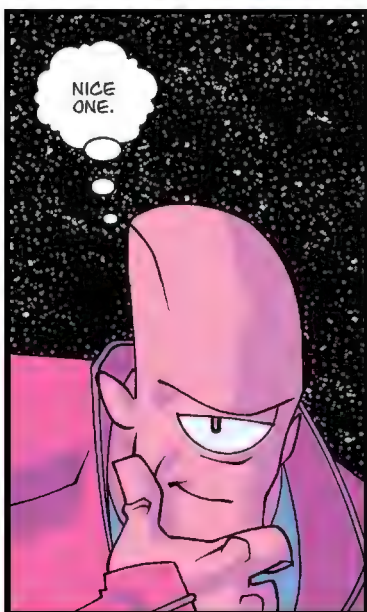




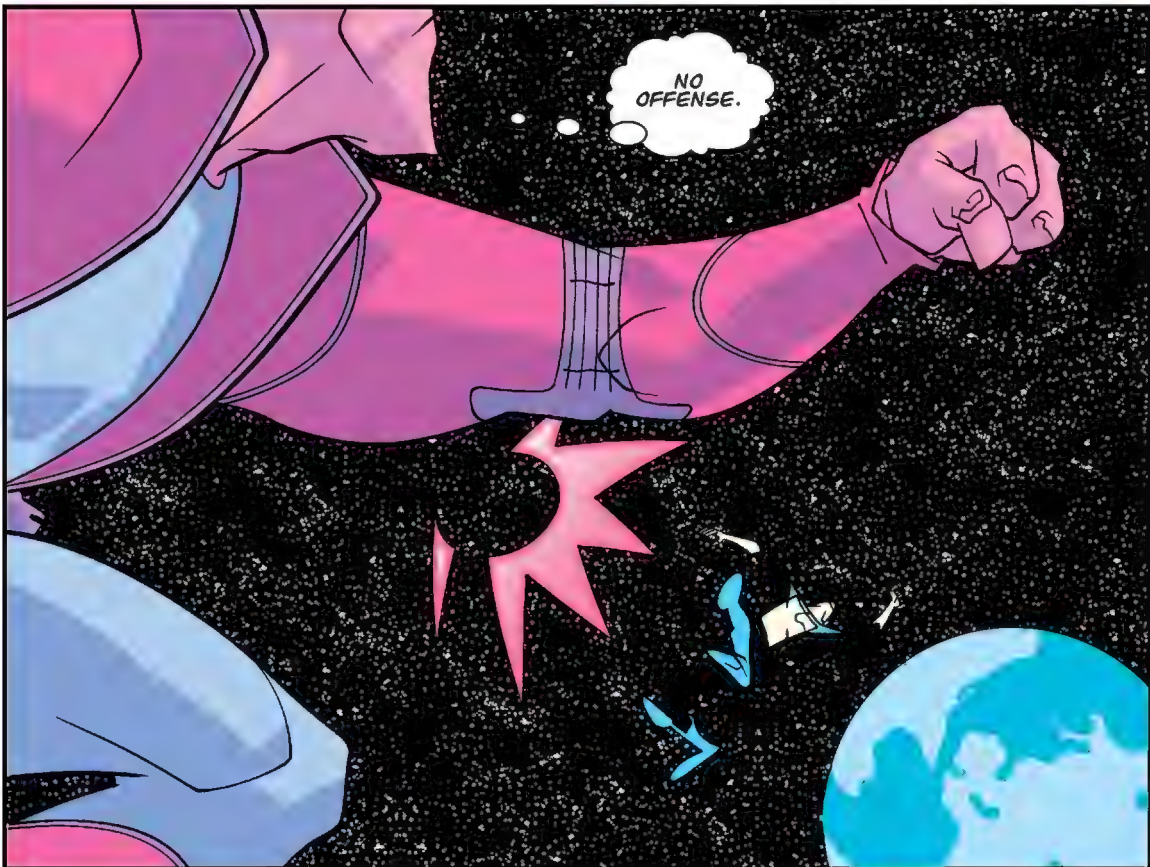




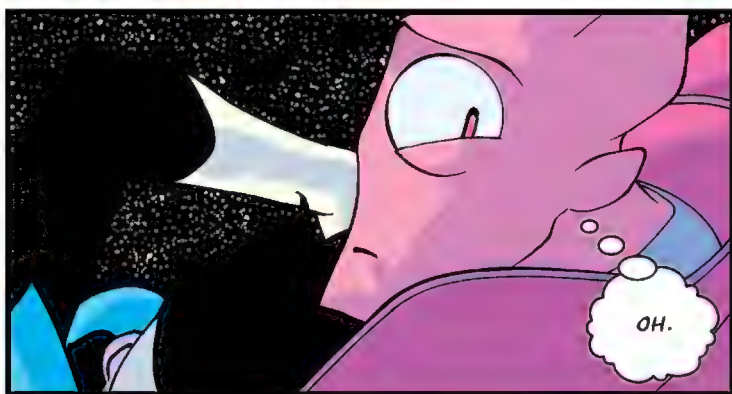
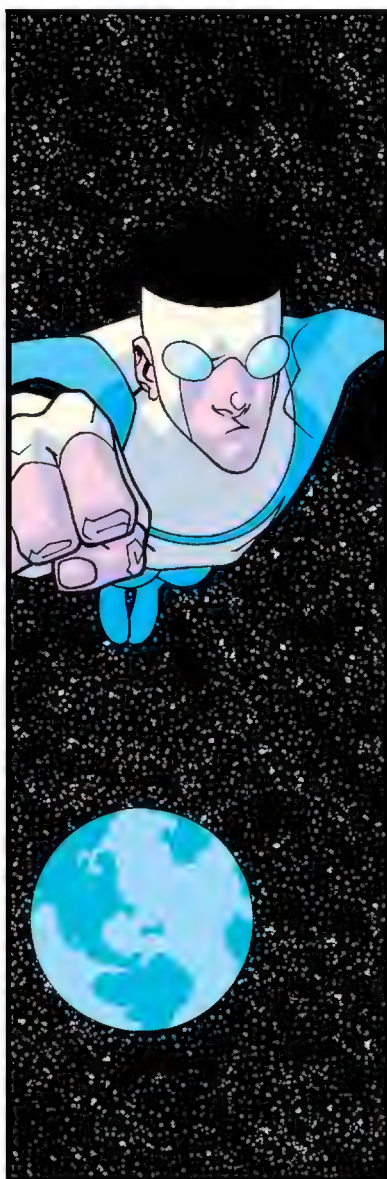








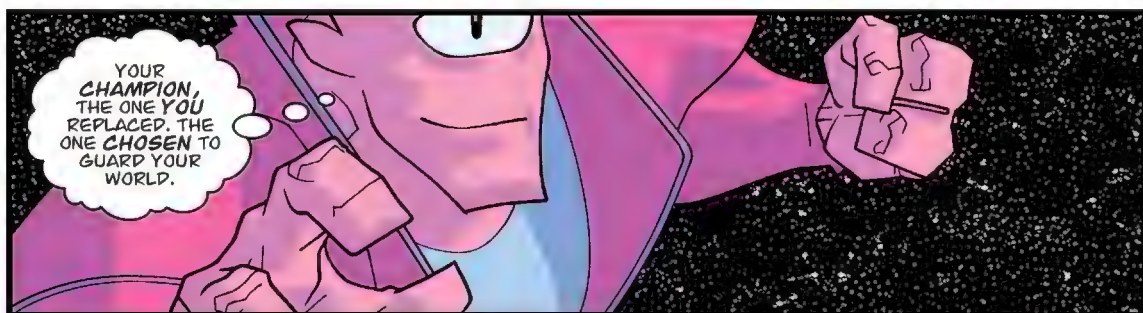




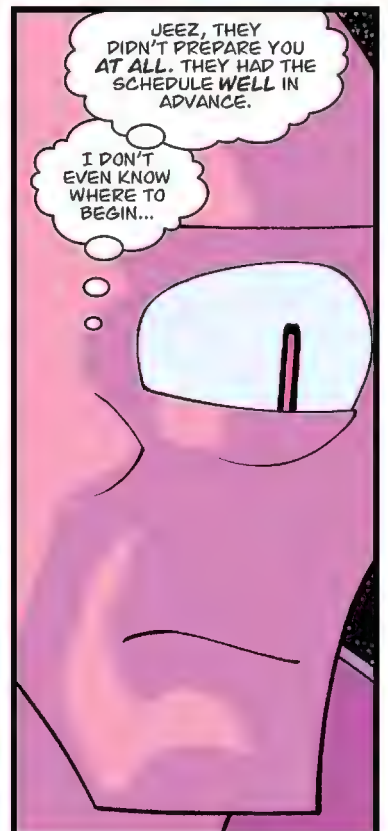








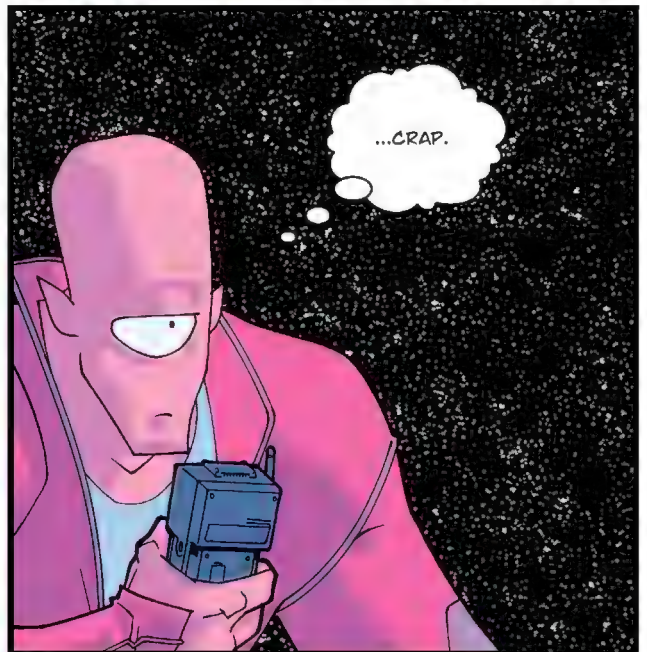




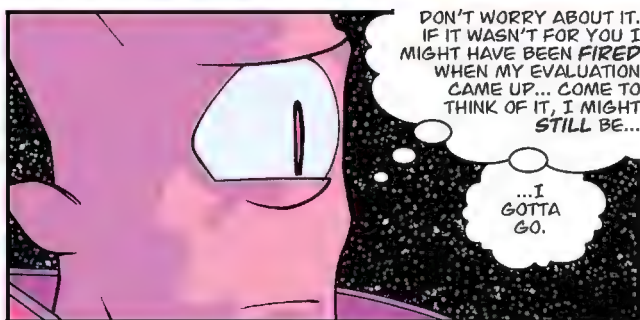










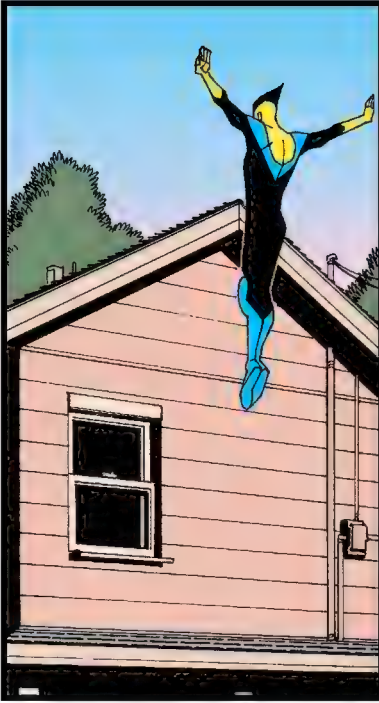






...COOL.

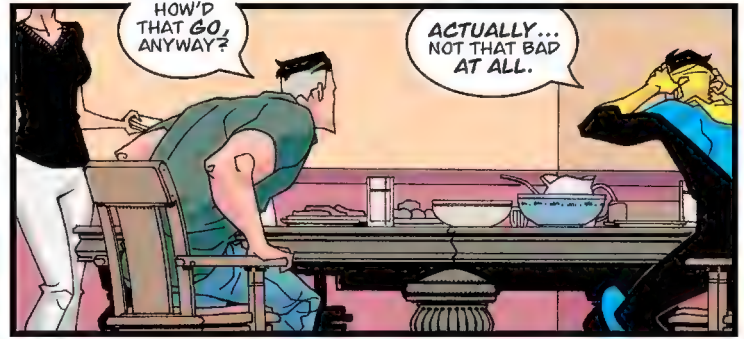




IT'S SO NICE  
TO HAVE YOU  
HOME THIS  
EARLY.



I HAD A  
LITTLE HELP  
TODAY...



HOW'D  
THAT GO,  
ANYWAY?

ACTUALLY...  
NOT THAT BAD  
AT ALL.



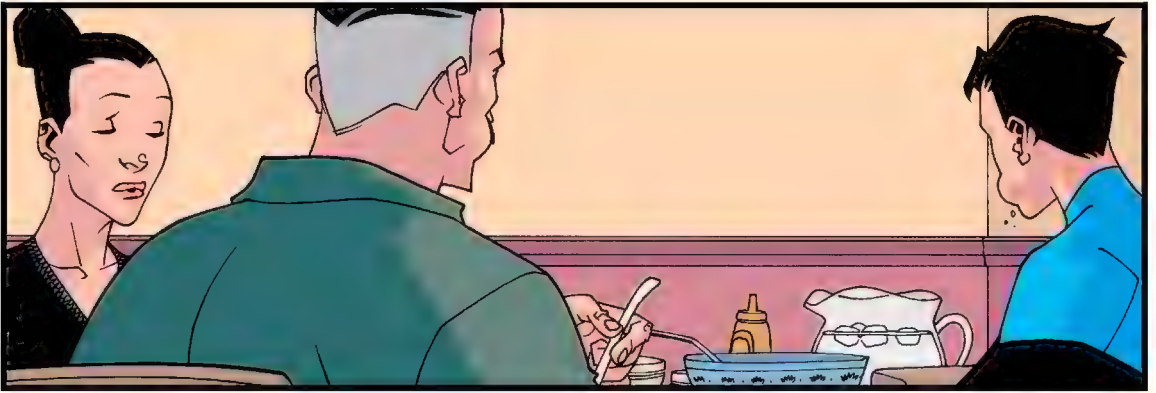
REALLY?

YEAH, HE  
WON'T BE BACK.  
TURNS OUT HE'S BEEN  
COMING TO THE WRONG  
PLANET THIS WHOLE TIME.  
EVERY THREE YEARS FOR  
NEARLY FIFTEEN YEARS...  
I'M GLAD I TOOK THE  
TIME TO TALK  
TO HIM.



DAMN,  
SON... I'M  
IMPRESSED.  
I WISH YOU HAD  
BEEN AROUND  
THE FIRST TIME  
I FOUGHT  
HIM.















# CHAPTER TWO

SIT TIGHT,  
WILLIAM...  
I THINK WE  
LOST IT.





NO,  
**ACTUALLY** IN  
THE TIME IT TOOK  
US TO LEAVE THE  
BATTLE SITE IN SAUDI  
ARABIA AND SAVE  
THOSE PEOPLE AT THE  
MALL THEY DEvised  
A WAY TO **TRACK** US,  
AND BUILT A DEVICE  
TO **DAMPEN** OUR  
POWERS.

SO, AS  
SOON AS THEY  
PUT THAT **THING**  
ON MY HEAD, I  
WAS POWERLESS...  
**THAT'S** HOW THEY  
PULLED ME IN  
THE PORTAL SO  
**EASILY**.

I CAN'T  
FIGURE OUT  
HOW **TIME** WORKS  
FOR THEM, FOR ALL I  
**KNOW** THEY COULD BE  
FROM A **NONLINEAR**  
DIMENSION... I HAVE  
**NO CLUE** HOW  
LONG I WAS  
THERE.

I  
ALWAYS  
ROUND **DOWN**...  
I THINK IT  
MAKES YOUR  
MOTHER **FEEL**  
BETTER.





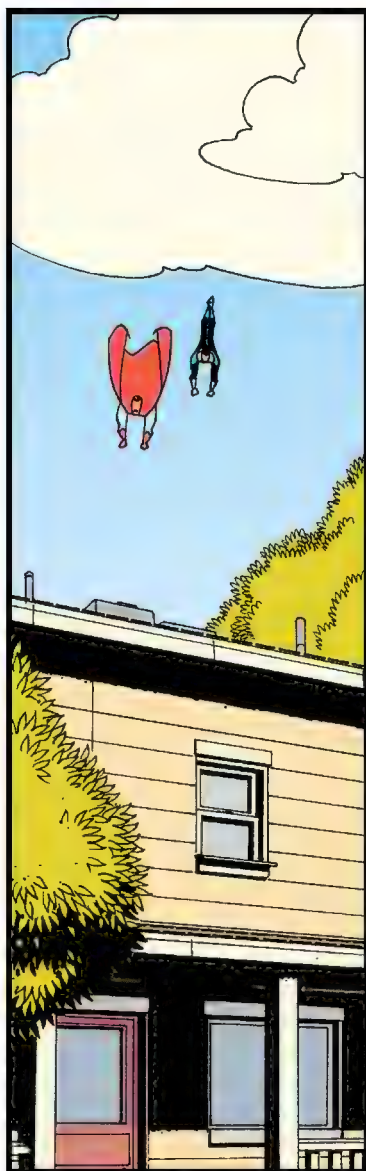
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

I HEAR THAT RIGHT AFTER THEY PULLED ME INTO THE PORTAL YOU CALLED OUT FOR ME...

YEAH, SO...?







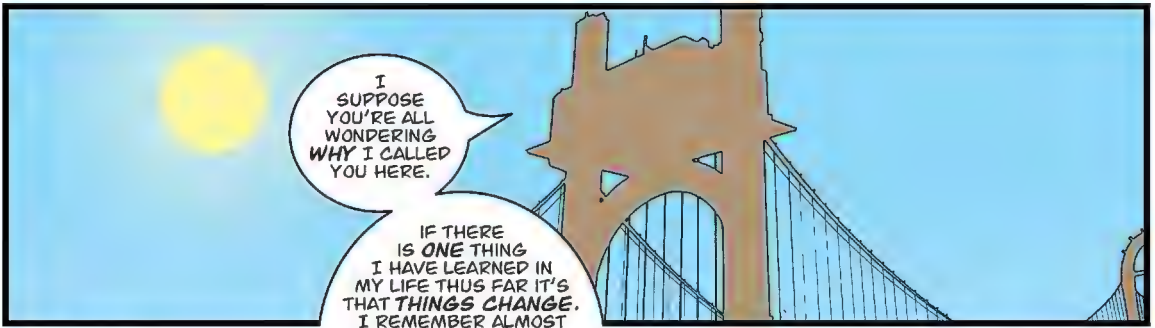






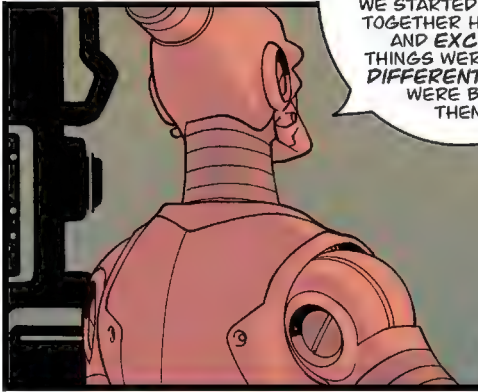






I  
SUPPOSE  
YOU'RE ALL  
WONDERING  
WHY I CALLED  
YOU HERE.

IF THERE  
IS **ONE** THING  
I HAVE LEARNED IN  
MY LIFE THUS FAR IT'S  
THAT **THINGS CHANGE**.  
I REMEMBER ALMOST  
FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN  
WE STARTED TO WORK  
TOGETHER HOW **NEW**  
AND **EXCITING**  
THINGS WERE... HOW  
**DIFFERENT** WE ALL  
WERE BACK  
THEN.



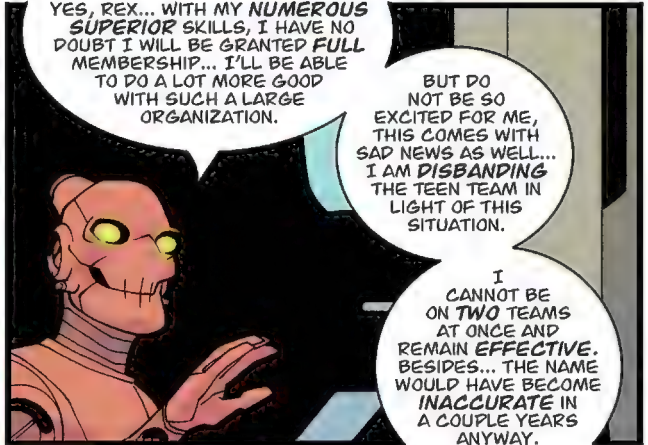
WE  
WERE YOUNG,  
AND RECKLESS...  
WE WEREN'T QUITE  
AS **EFFECTIVE** AS  
WE ARE NOW. THINGS  
**CHANGED**... AND  
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE  
WE'RE IN FOR  
**ANOTHER**  
ONE.

I HAVE BEEN  
INVITED TO TRY  
OUT FOR THE  
GUARDIANS OF  
THE GLOBE.



OH,  
ROBOT--  
THAT'S  
GREAT!

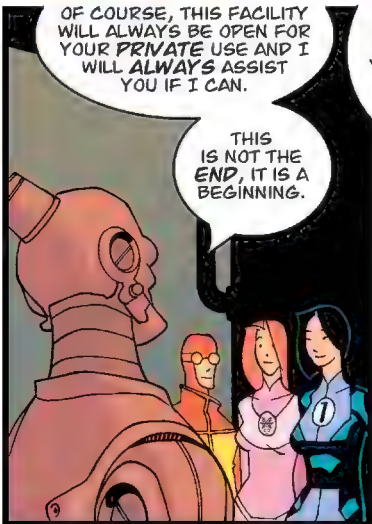
YEAH,  
MAN... WELL  
DONE! I'M SURE  
YOU'LL **REALLY**  
TURN SOME HEADS.



YES, REX... WITH MY **NUMEROUS**  
**SUPERIOR** SKILLS, I HAVE NO  
DOUBT I WILL BE GRANTED **FULL**  
MEMBERSHIP... I'LL BE ABLE  
TO DO A LOT MORE GOOD  
WITH SUCH A LARGE  
ORGANIZATION.

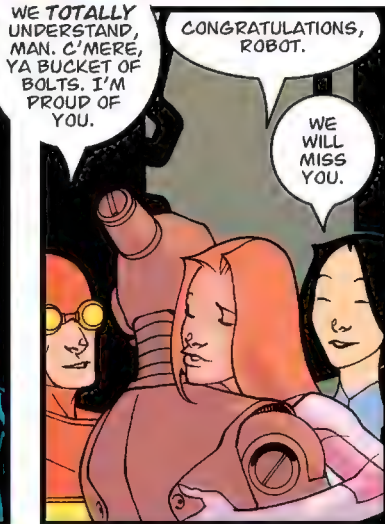
BUT DO  
NOT BE SO  
EXCITED FOR ME,  
THIS COMES WITH  
SAD NEWS AS WELL...  
I AM **DISBANDING**  
THE TEEN TEAM IN  
LIGHT OF THIS  
SITUATION.

I  
CANNOT BE  
ON **TWO** TEAMS  
AT ONCE AND  
REMAIN **EFFECTIVE**.  
BESIDES... THE NAME  
WOULD HAVE BECOME  
**INACCURATE** IN  
A COUPLE YEARS  
ANYWAY.



OF COURSE, THIS FACILITY  
WILL ALWAYS BE OPEN FOR  
YOUR **PRIVATE** USE AND I  
WILL **ALWAYS** ASSIST  
YOU IF I CAN.

THIS  
IS NOT THE  
**END**, IT IS A  
**BEGINNING**.



WE **TOTALLY**  
UNDERSTAND,  
MAN. C'MERE,  
YA BUCKET OF  
BOLTS. I'M  
PROUD OF  
YOU.

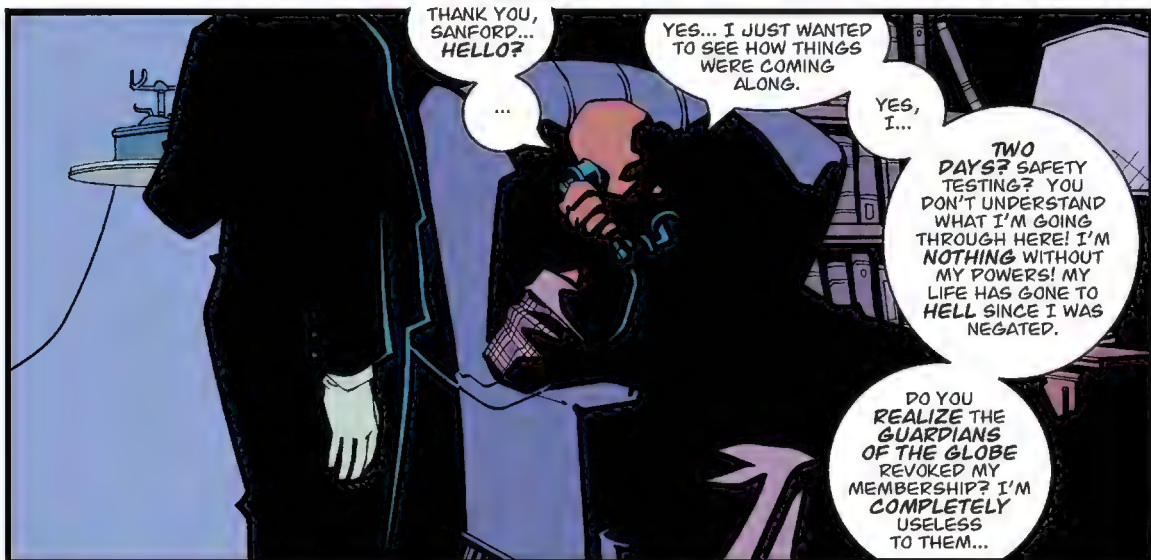
CONGRATULATIONS,  
ROBOT.

WE  
WILL  
MISS  
YOU.

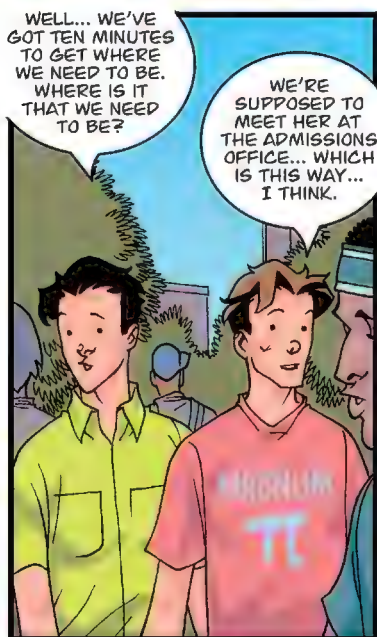


I  
WILL MISS  
YOU ALL, AS  
WELL.

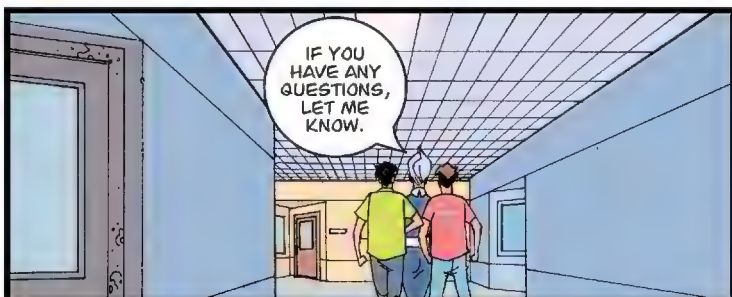
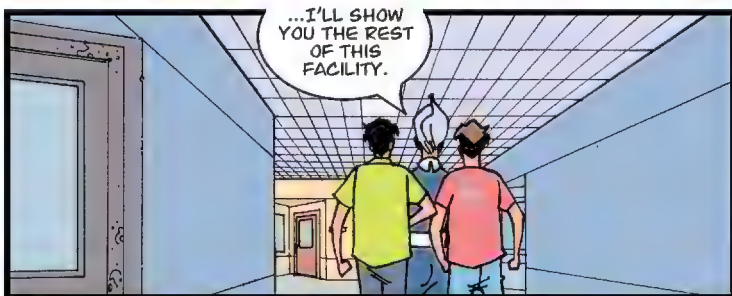
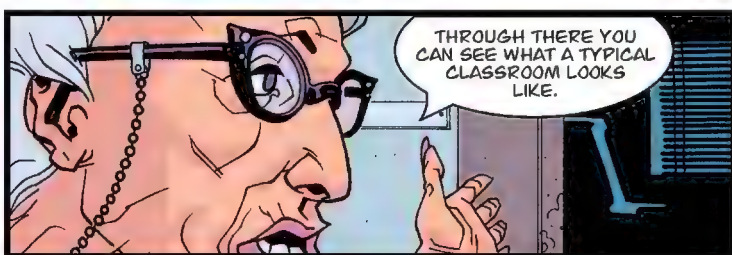
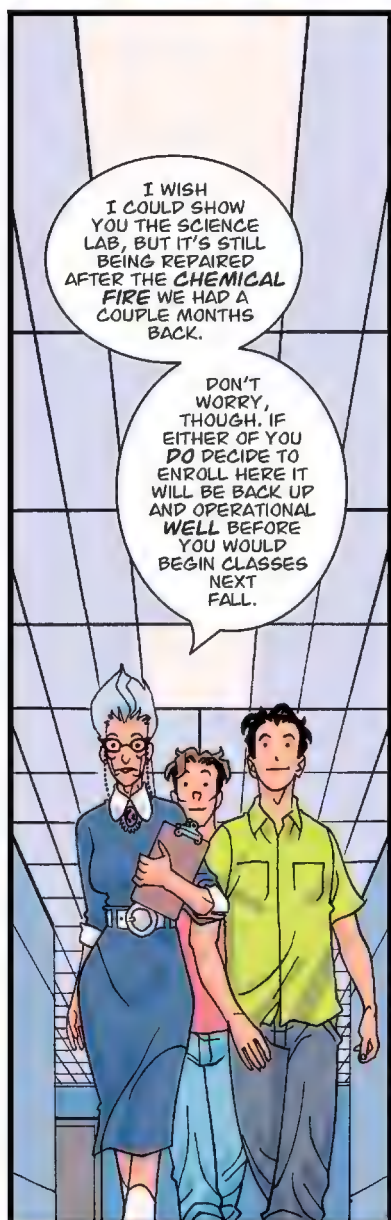
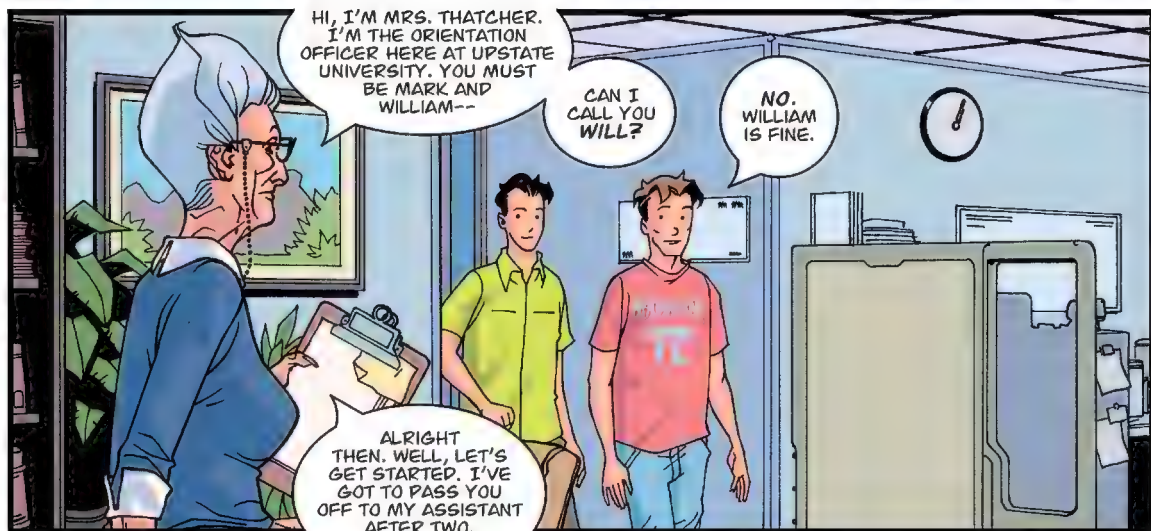








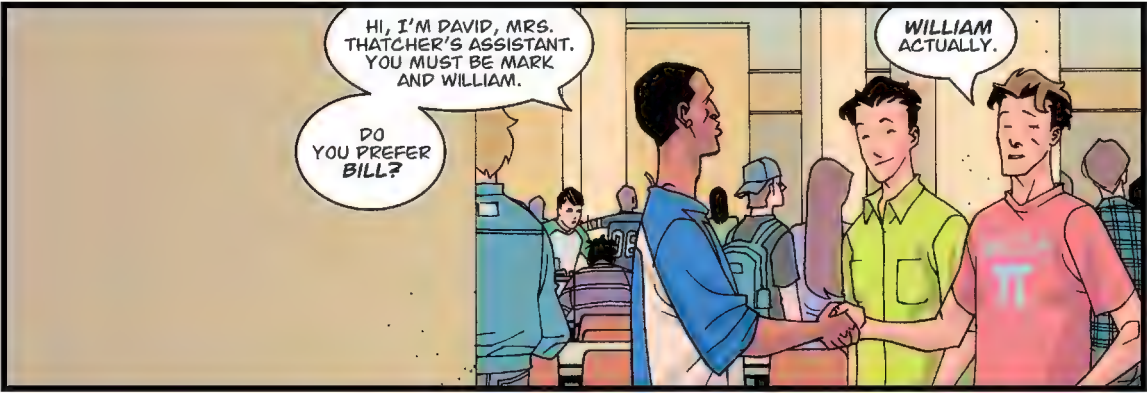








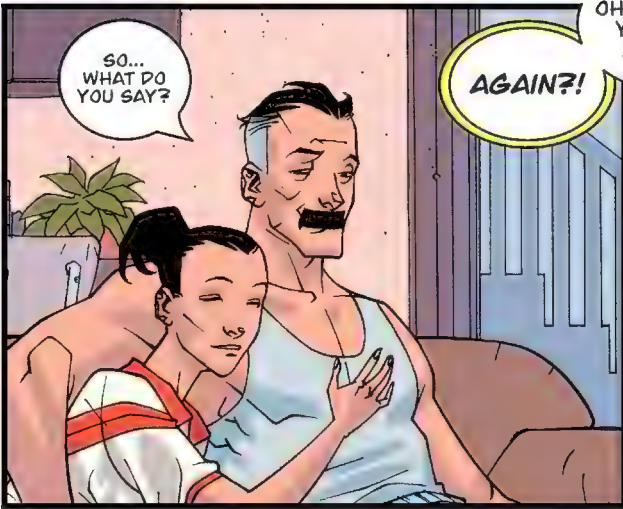




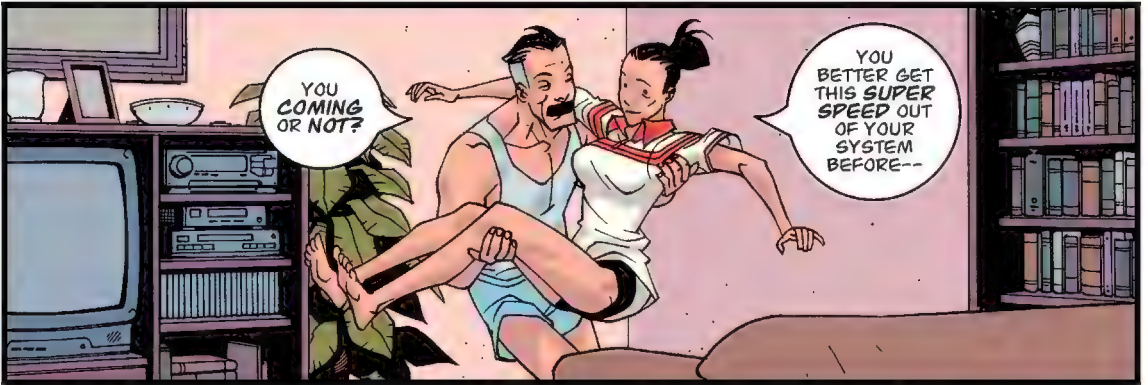




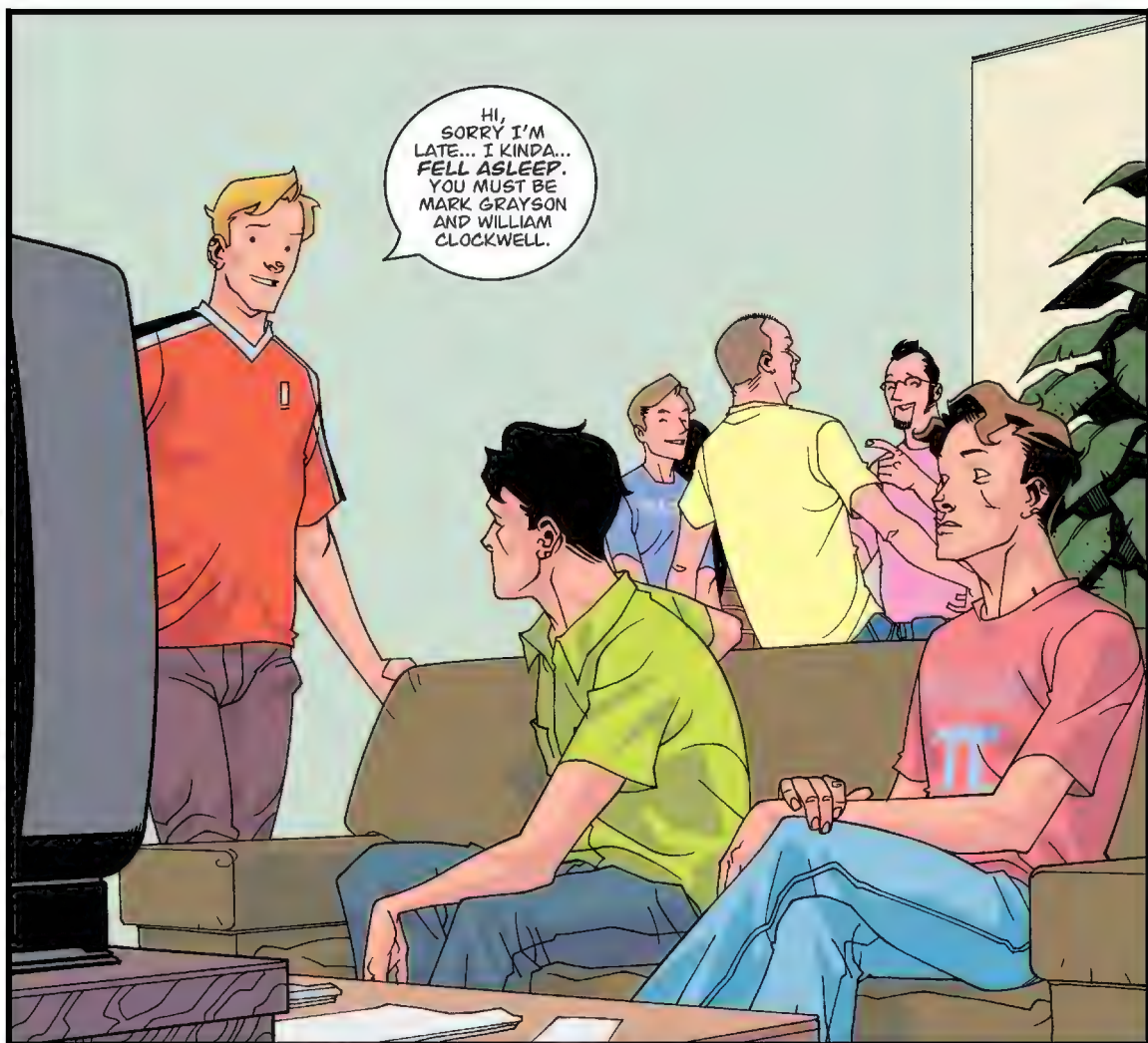




AGAIN?!











SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

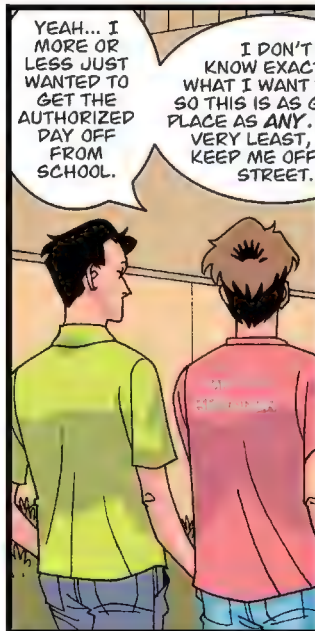
I THINK YOU REALLY CAME OFF LIKE A JERK IN THERE... AND RICK SEEMED TO BE A REALLY COOL GUY.

SEE... I TOLD YOU. BUT I MEANT ABOUT THE SCHOOL.

OH, I WAS PRETTY MUCH DECIDED BEFORE WE EVEN CAME HERE. IT'S GOT EVERYTHING I'M GOING TO NEED, AND IT'S NOT TOO EXPENSIVE... SO MY PARENTS CAN EASILY AFFORD IT, AND WITH MY S.A.T. SCORES IT'LL BE A BREEZE TO GET ACCEPTED.



UNLESS SOMETHING ELSE COMES UP... THIS IS THE PLACE.



YEAH... I MORE OR LESS JUST WANTED TO GET THE AUTHORIZED DAY OFF FROM SCHOOL.

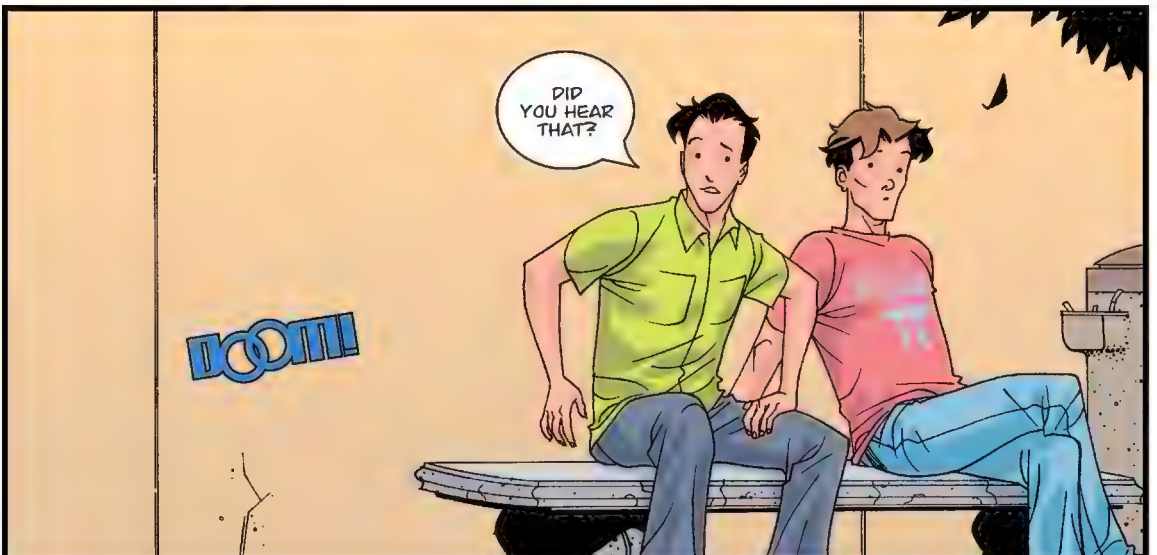
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO DO, SO THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY. AT THE VERY LEAST, IT'LL KEEP ME OFF THE STREET.



COOL, THEN WE'LL GET TO ROOM TOGETHER LIKE WE WANTED TO.

THIS IS GOING TO BE A HOOT.

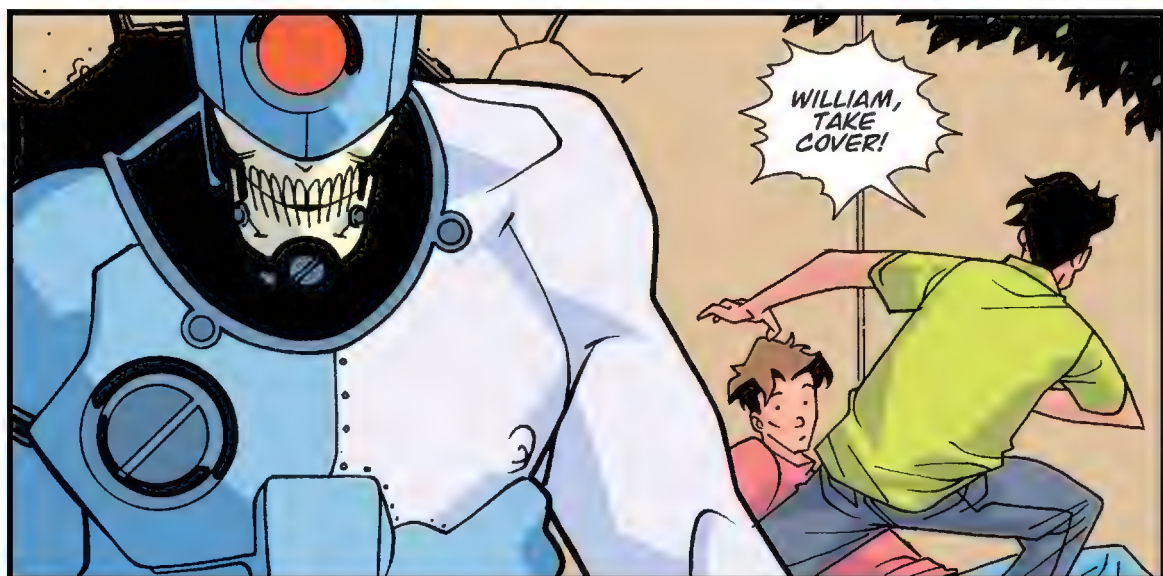
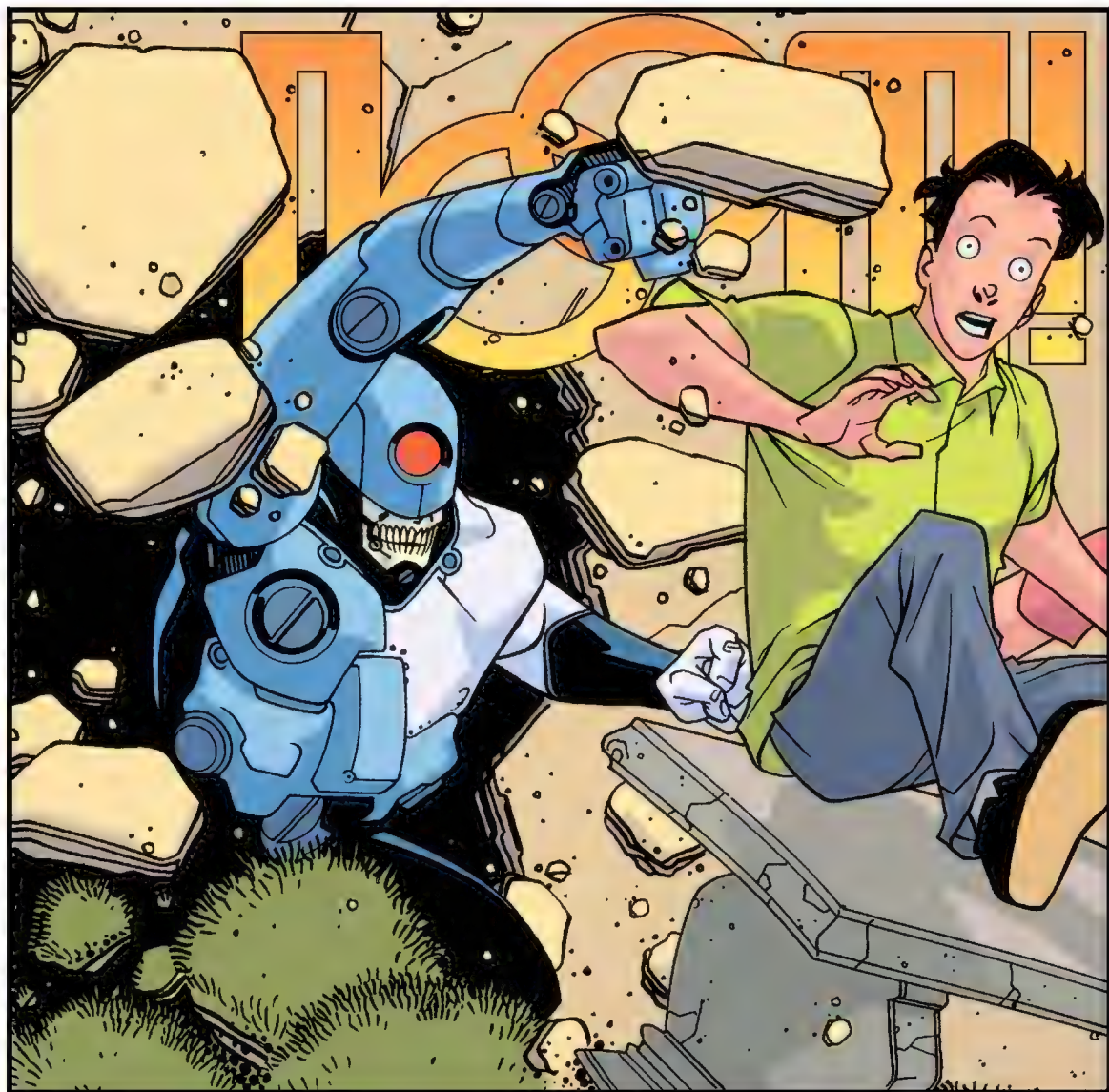
TWO CHICK MAGNETS LIKE US... THIS PLACE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.



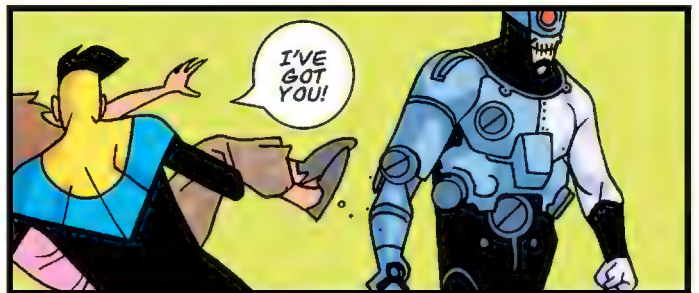
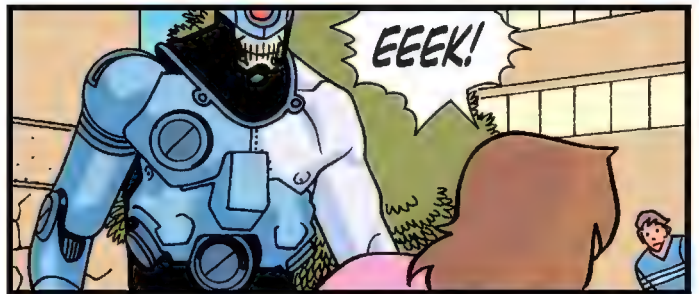
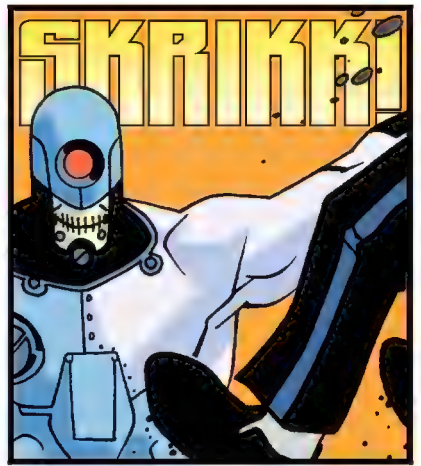
DID YOU HEAR THAT?

DOOM!

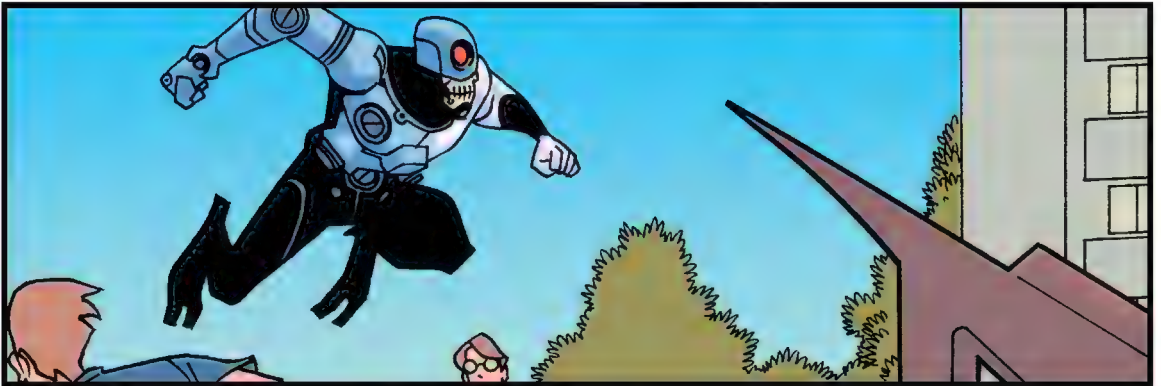
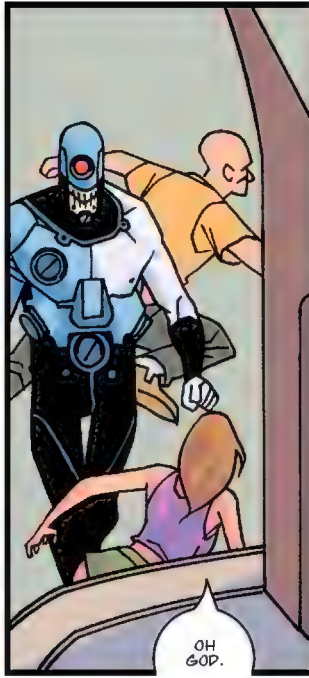
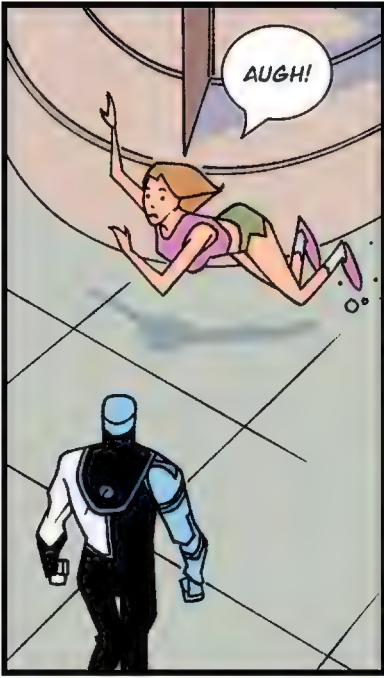




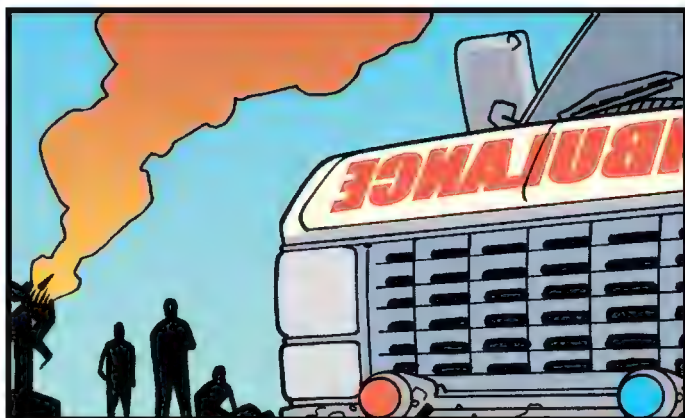




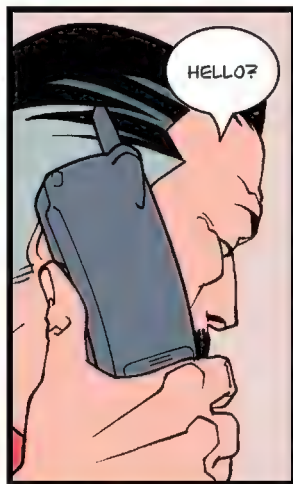
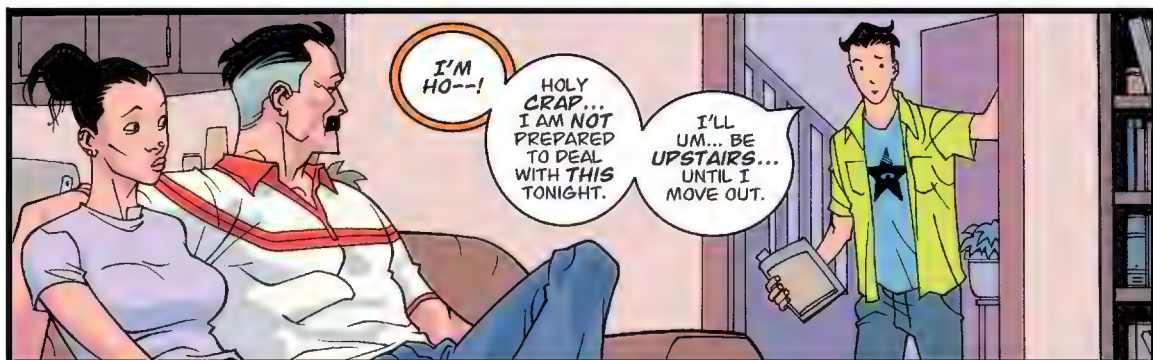
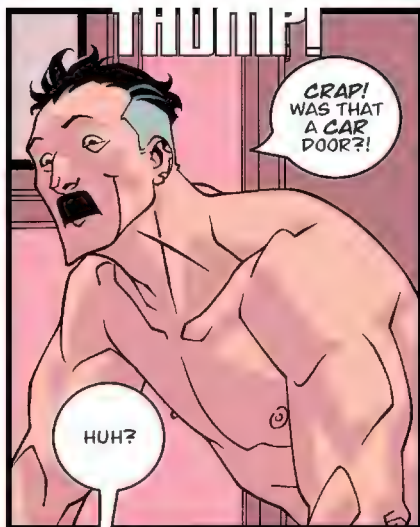










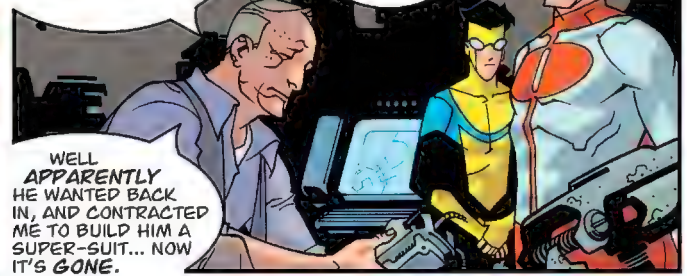






I... I WAS DEVELOPING A SUIT THAT WOULD RESTORE BLACK SAMSON'S POWERS: YOU KNEW ABOUT HIS INCIDENT, RIGHT?

YEAH, THE GUARDIANS TOLD ME THEY HAD TO LET HIM GO.



WELL APPARENTLY HE WANTED BACK IN, AND CONTRACTED ME TO BUILD HIM A SUPER-SUIT... NOW IT'S GONE.

I DIDN'T SEE WHO IT WAS... THEY KNOCKED ME OUT BEFORE I EVEN KNEW THEY HAD BROKEN IN.



BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I DEAL WITH SUPER VILLAINS, AND THIS PLACE ISN'T EXACTLY COMMON KNOWLEDGE... AND HIS SUIT WAS THE ONLY THING STOLEN...



YOU'RE NOT SAYING...



I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING... I MEAN... I KNEW HE WAS UNSTABLE BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST THE STRESS OF LOSING HIS POWERS... HE MAY VERY WELL HAVE GONE INSANE...

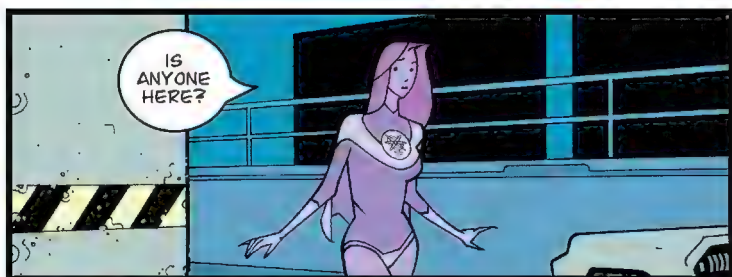
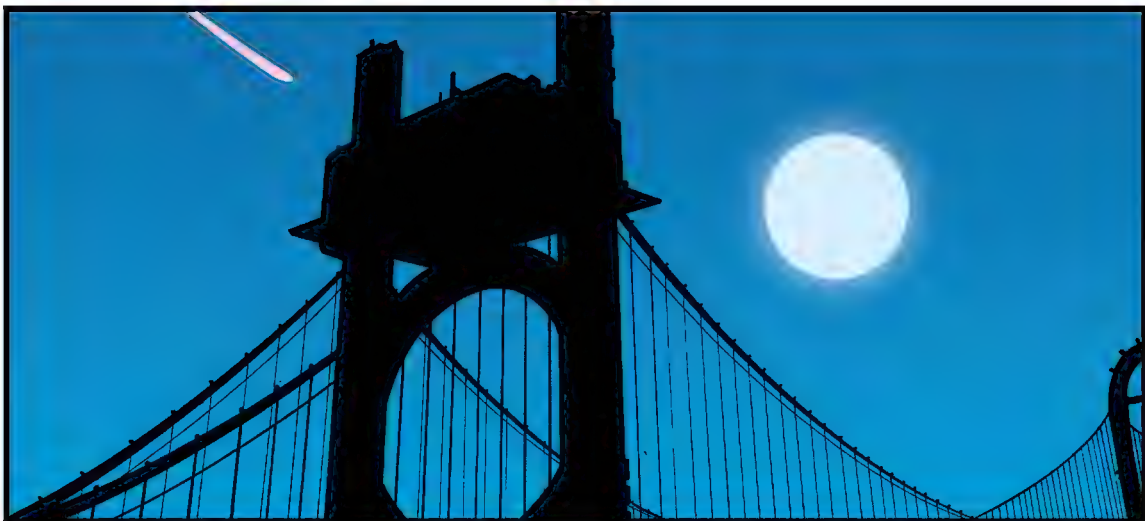


ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT SOMEONE WHO WAS CRAZY ENOUGH TO BREAK IN HERE AND ROB ME IS ROAMING FREE OUT THERE IN A SUIT THAT GIVES THEM THE POWER TO LEVEL CITIES...



...AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT.











# CHAPTER THREE

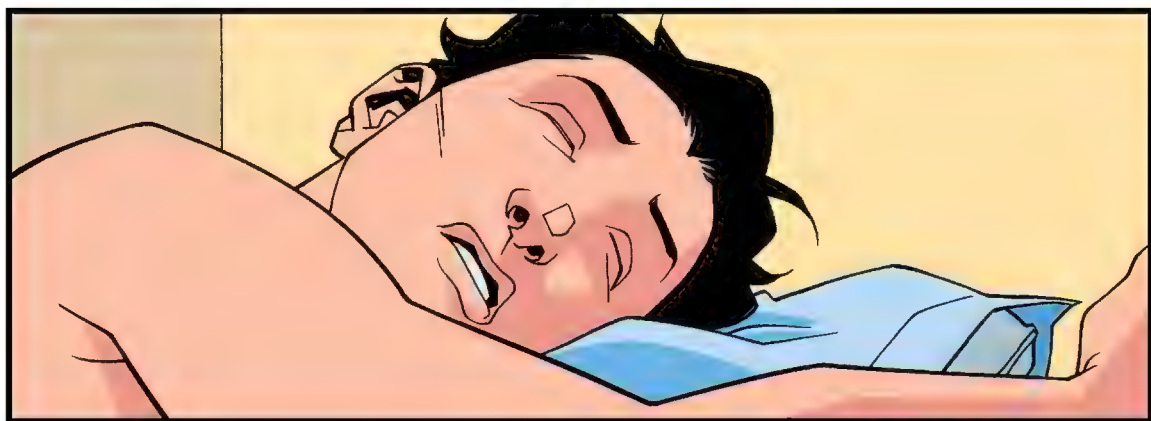
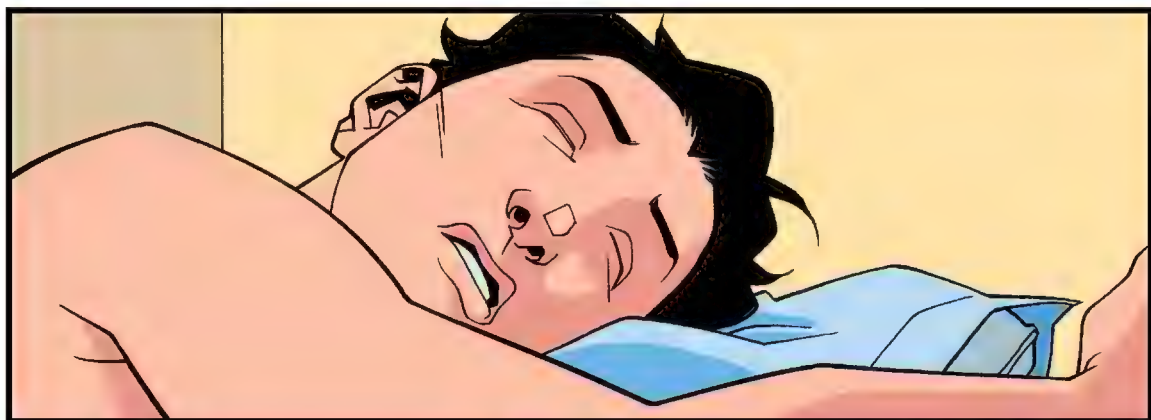
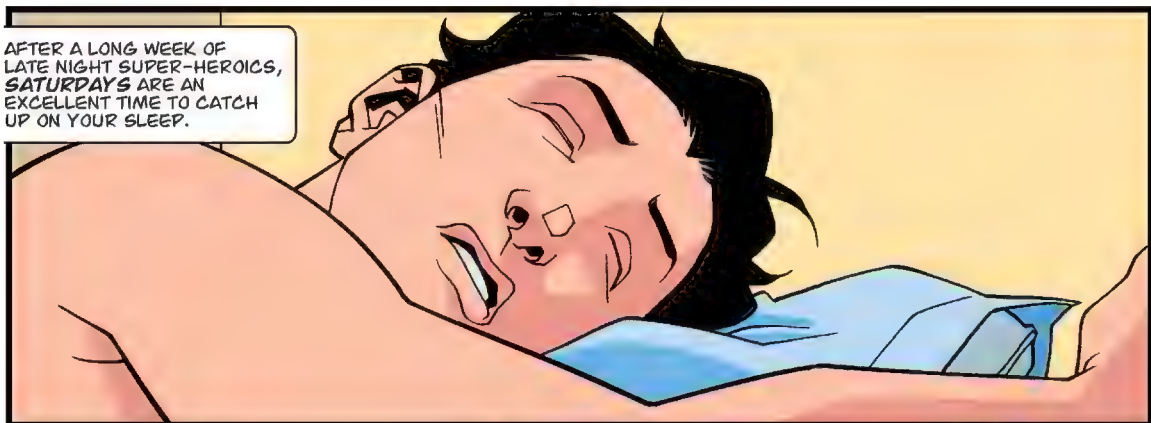
ONE SIDE,  
KIDDO! THIS  
LOOKS LIKE A  
JOB FOR--

## THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE!

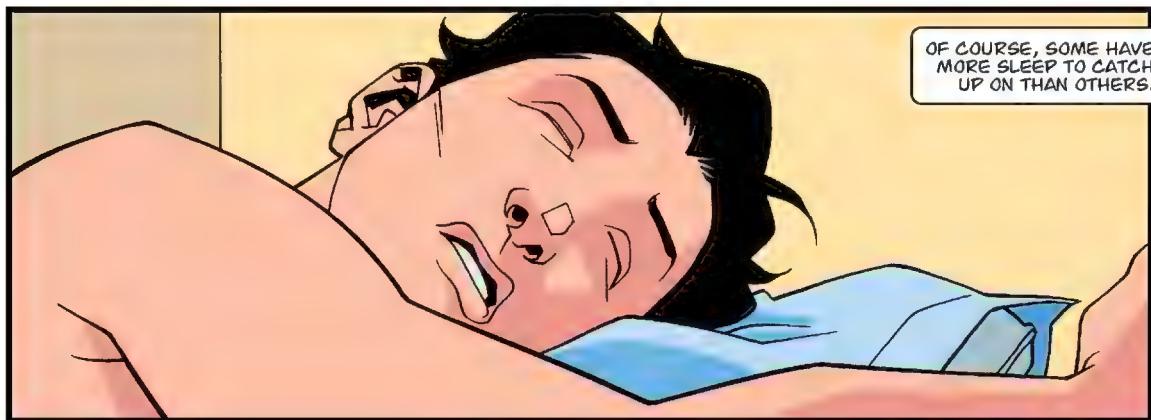




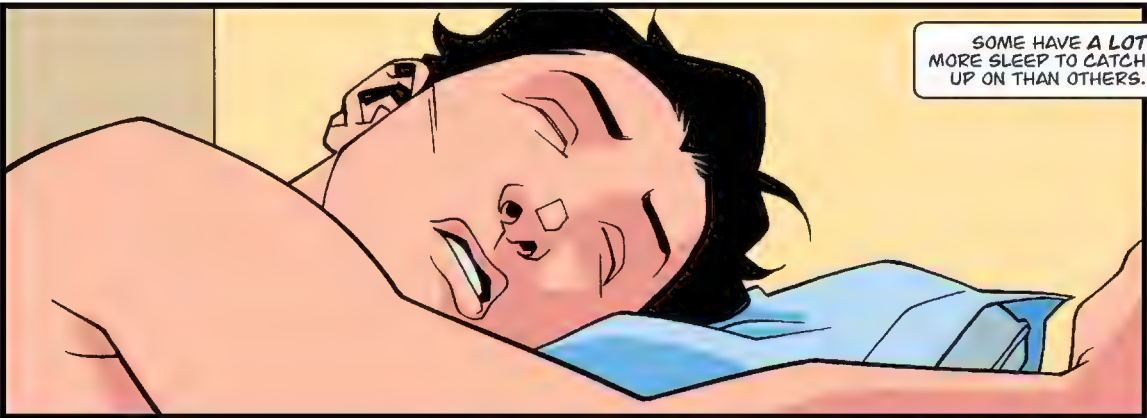
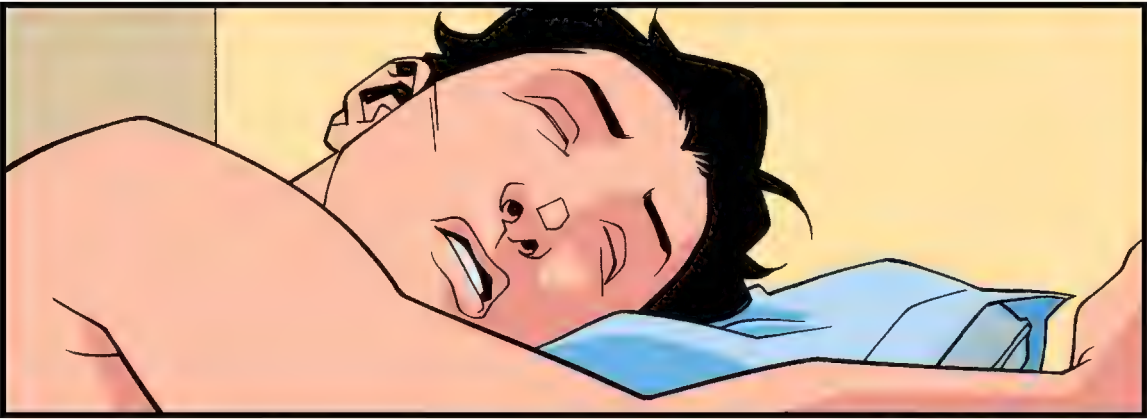
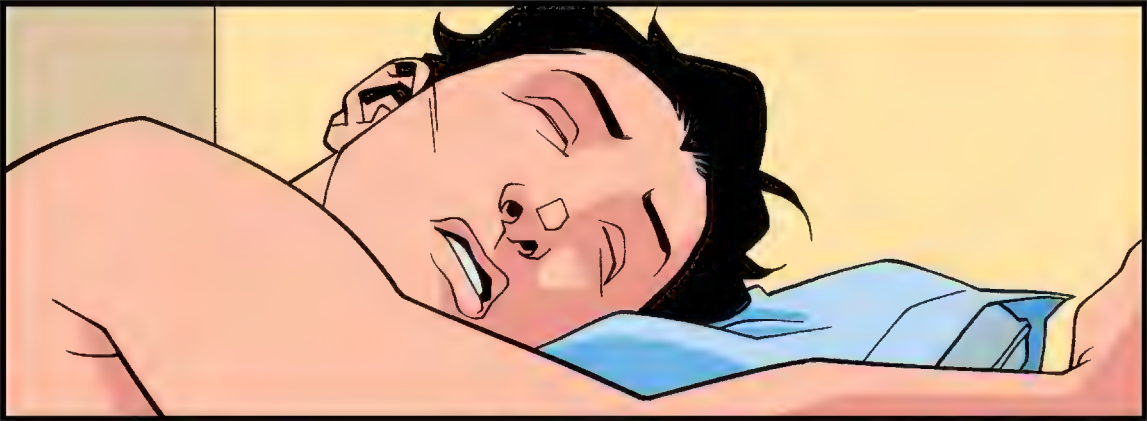
AFTER A LONG WEEK OF  
LATE NIGHT SUPER-HEROICS,  
**SATURDAYS** ARE AN  
EXCELLENT TIME TO CATCH  
UP ON YOUR SLEEP.



OF COURSE, SOME HAVE  
MORE SLEEP TO CATCH  
UP ON THAN OTHERS.









MIDNIGHT CITY.

NINE O'CLOCK... A.M.

I HAVEN'T BEEN UP  
THIS EARLY IN YEARS...

OH, QUIT YOUR BELLY-  
ACHING... WE'RE MAKING  
GOOD TIME HERE.

AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF  
GETTING CAUGHT?  
ESPECIALLY THIS EARLY  
IN THE DAY...

YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN  
ABOUT MIDNIGHT CITY,  
LITTLE BROTHER.

THERE IS NO DAY AND NIGHT...  
NOT SINCE THE MIDNIGHT  
MAGICIAN SUCCEEDED IN  
HIS SUICIDE MISSION  
THREE YEARS  
AGO.

I  
THOUGHT YOU  
KNEW ABOUT  
ALL THIS WHEN I  
ASKED YOU TO  
COME STAY  
WITH ME!

I KNEW A LITTLE BIT  
ABOUT IT... BUT NOT ALL  
THE DETAILS. WHAT  
ABOUT COPS... WHAT  
IF WE TRIP AN  
ALARM?

AFTER IT HAPPENED,  
THE GOVERNMENT STARTED  
PAYING PEOPLE TO LEAVE--  
COVERING MOVING EXPENSES  
AND WHATNOT. THERE AREN'T  
MANY COPS LEFT EITHER.  
ONLY PEOPLE HERE ARE THE  
ONES THAT REFUSED TO  
LEAVE AND PEOPLE LIKE  
US WHO STAYED BEHIND  
TO LOOT THE PLACE.  
THERE'S ALMOST  
NOBODY  
LEFT...

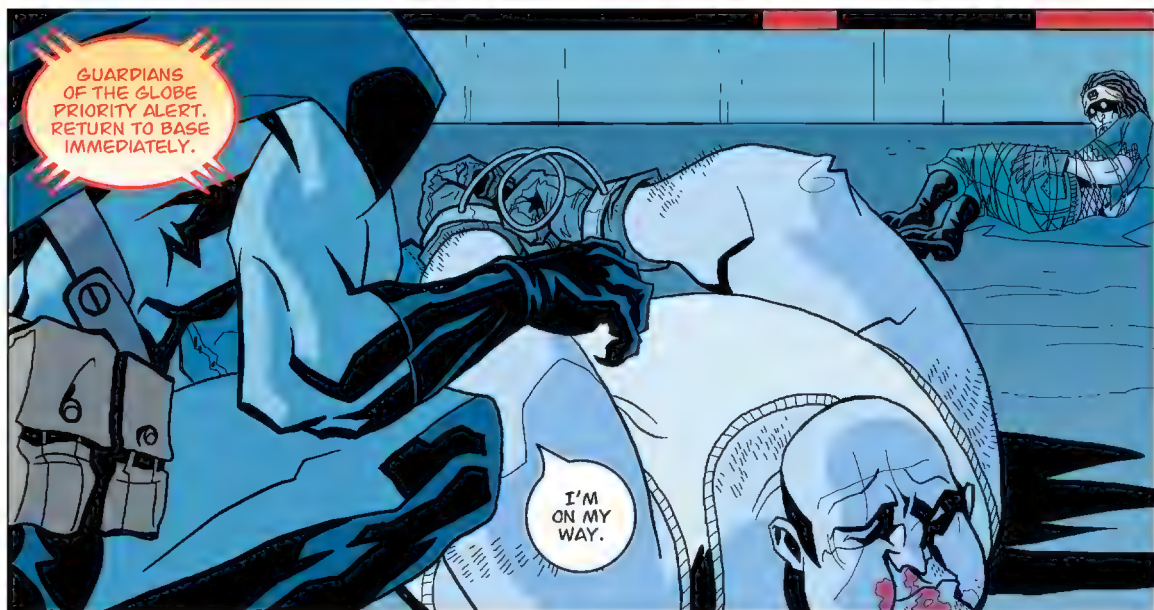
ONLY  
REAL THREAT  
TO US IS DARKWING  
AND HE CAN'T BE  
EVERYWHERE.



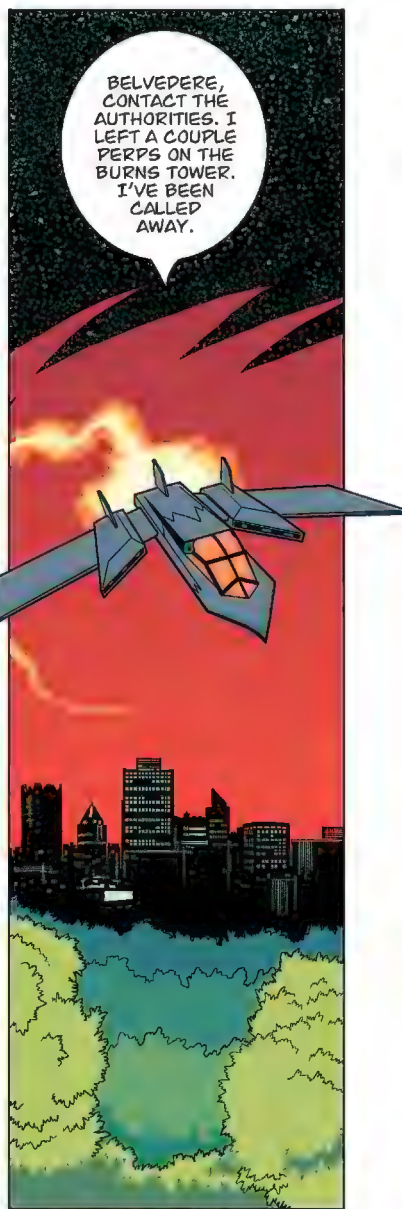
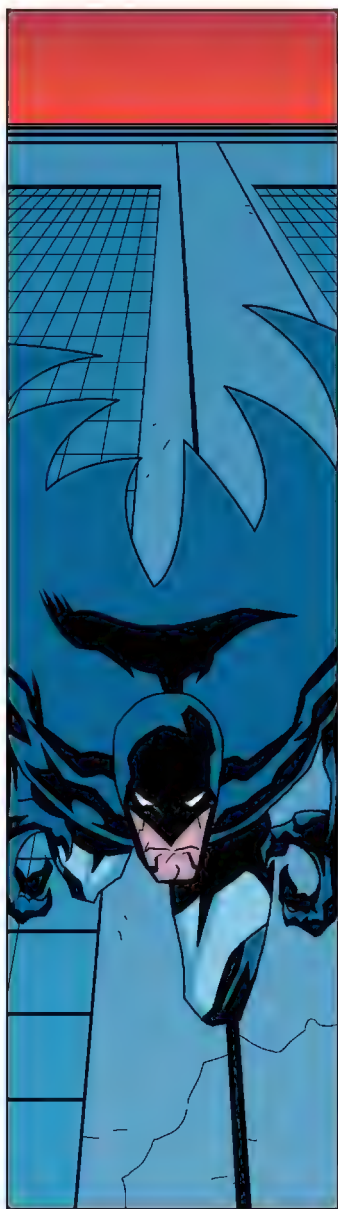


I  
WOULDN'T  
BE SO  
SURE...

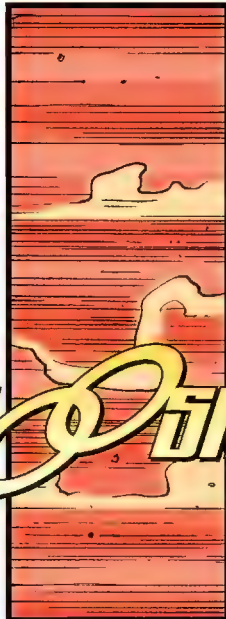














(... AND I TOLD HER,  
IF I FIND MY STAPLER  
IN HER OFFICE ONE  
MORE TIME I'M  
GOING TO--)

(YOU  
BASTARD!)

(YOU THINK  
YOU COULD GET  
AWAY WITH A LITTLE  
"SUPERHEROING"  
IN BETWEEN WORDS?  
DAMMIT, JOSEF, YOU  
SAID YOU WERE  
TAKING THE DAY  
OFF!)

(OH,  
SORRY..)

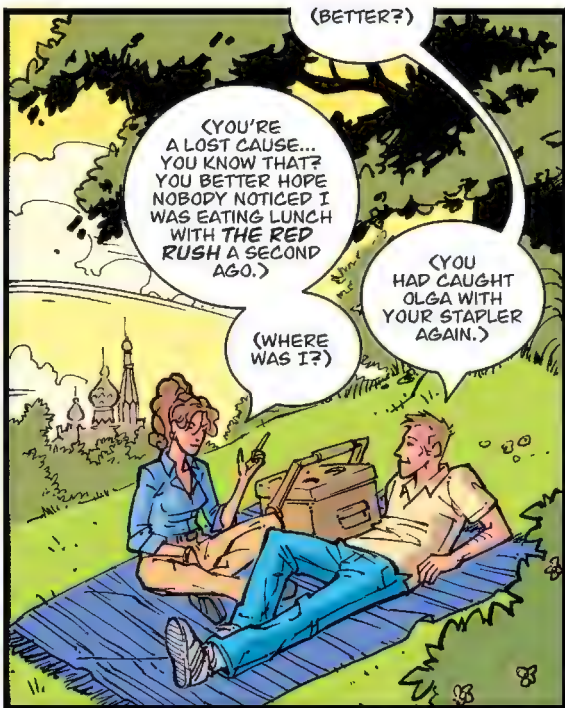


(BETTER?)

(YOU'RE  
A LOST CAUSE...  
YOU KNOW THAT?  
YOU BETTER HOPE  
NOBODY NOTICED I  
WAS EATING LUNCH  
WITH THE RED  
RUSH A SECOND  
AGO.)

(YOU  
HAD CAUGHT  
OLGA WITH  
YOUR STAPLER  
AGAIN.)

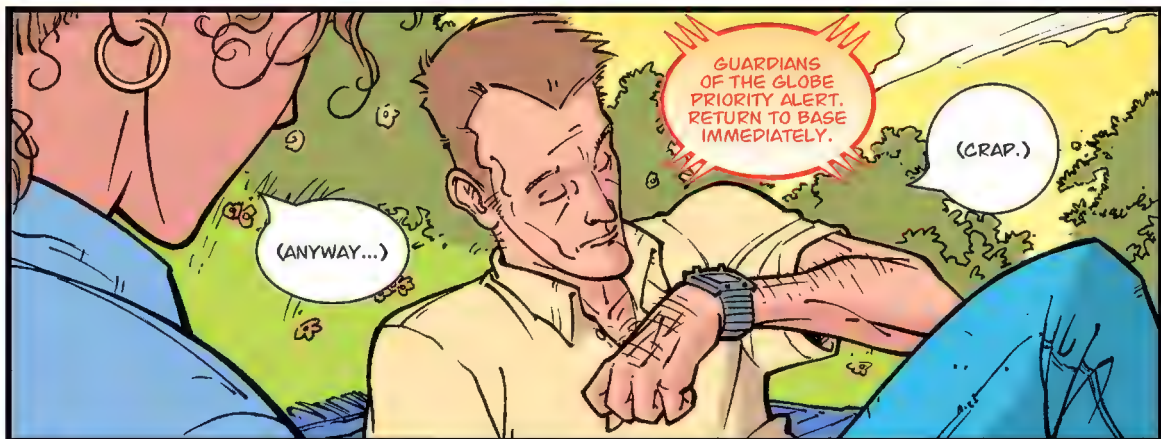
(WHERE  
WAS I?)



GUARDIANS  
OF THE GLOBE  
PRIORITY ALERT.  
RETURN TO BASE  
IMMEDIATELY.

(CRAP.)

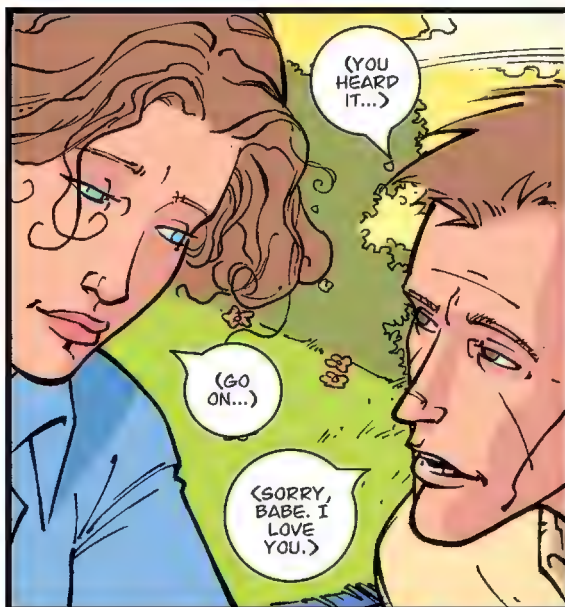
(ANYWAY...)



(YOU  
HEARD  
IT...)

(GO  
ON...)

(SORRY,  
BABE. I  
LOVE  
YOU.)

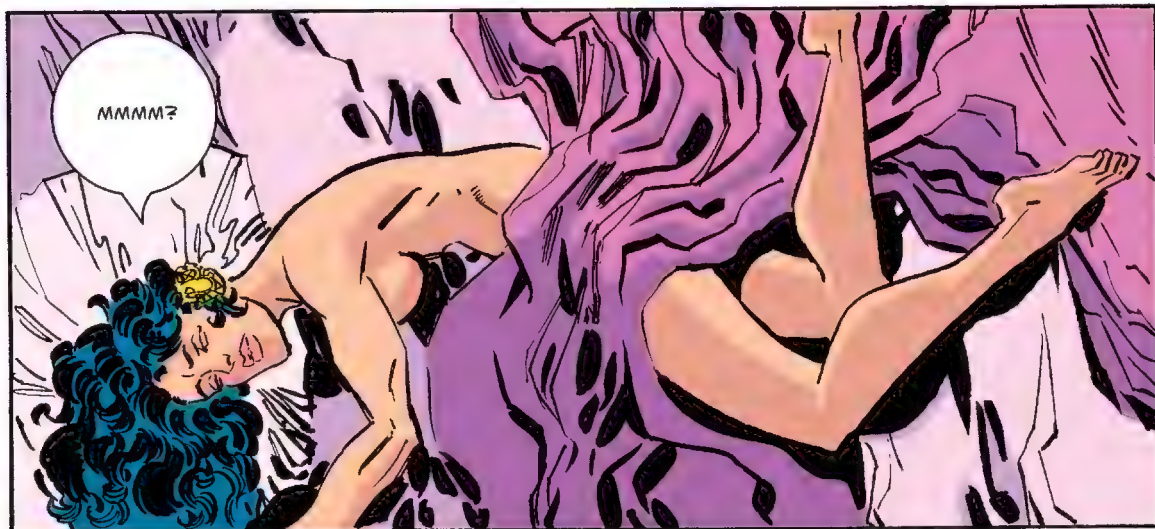
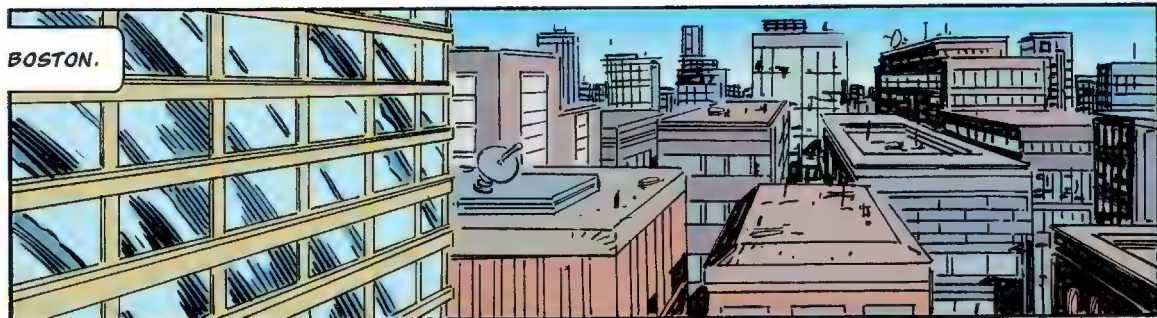


≡SIGH≡

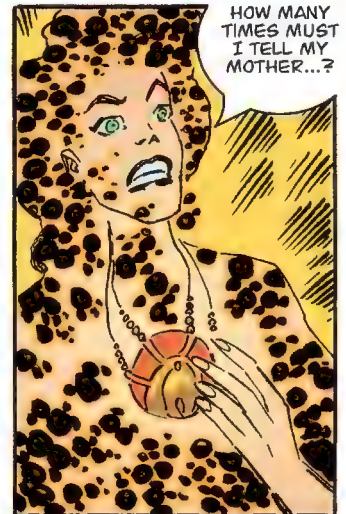
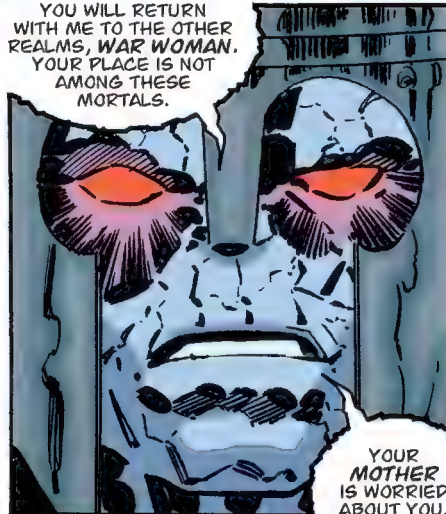
(I  
LOVE YOU  
TOO.)



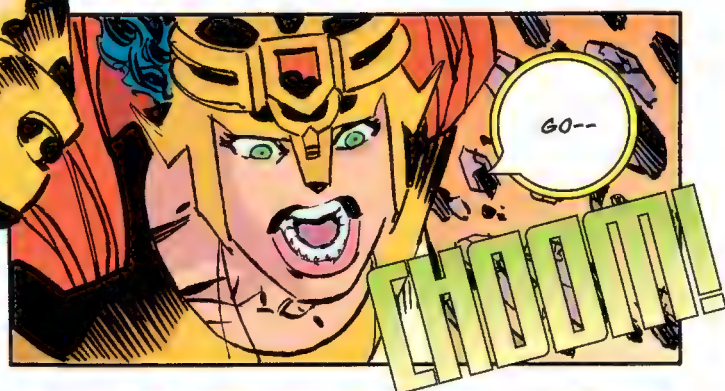
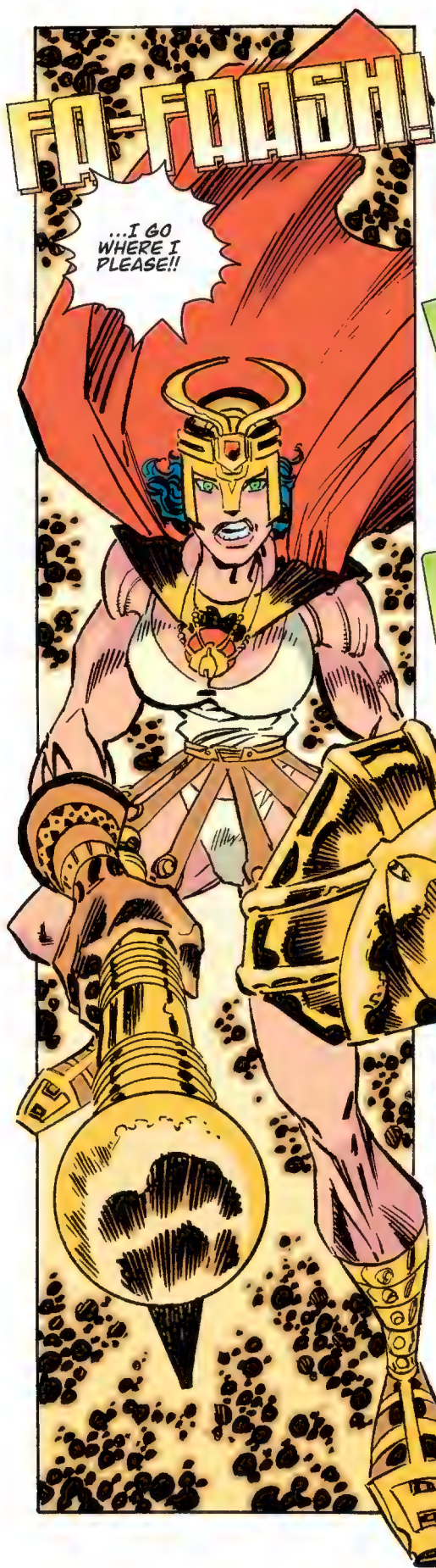
















WHAT WAS THAT?

SOMETHING FROM MY PAST.

I WILL HAVE MY COMPANY HIRE SOMEONE TO MOVE YOU OUT OF HERE TODAY AND THEN REIMBURSE YOUR LANDLORD FOR THE DAMAGE. PICK A LARGER PLACE... I PLAN TO STAY OVER MORE OFTEN. LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE REPLACING ANYTHING.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I WILL BE FI--

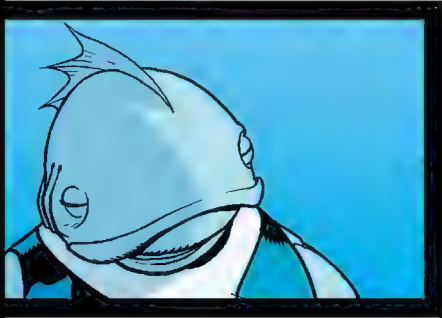
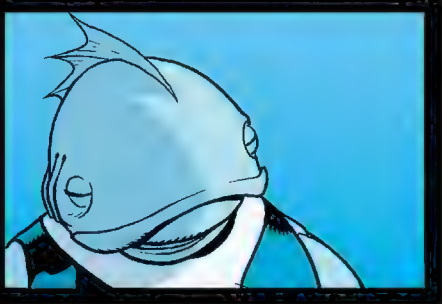
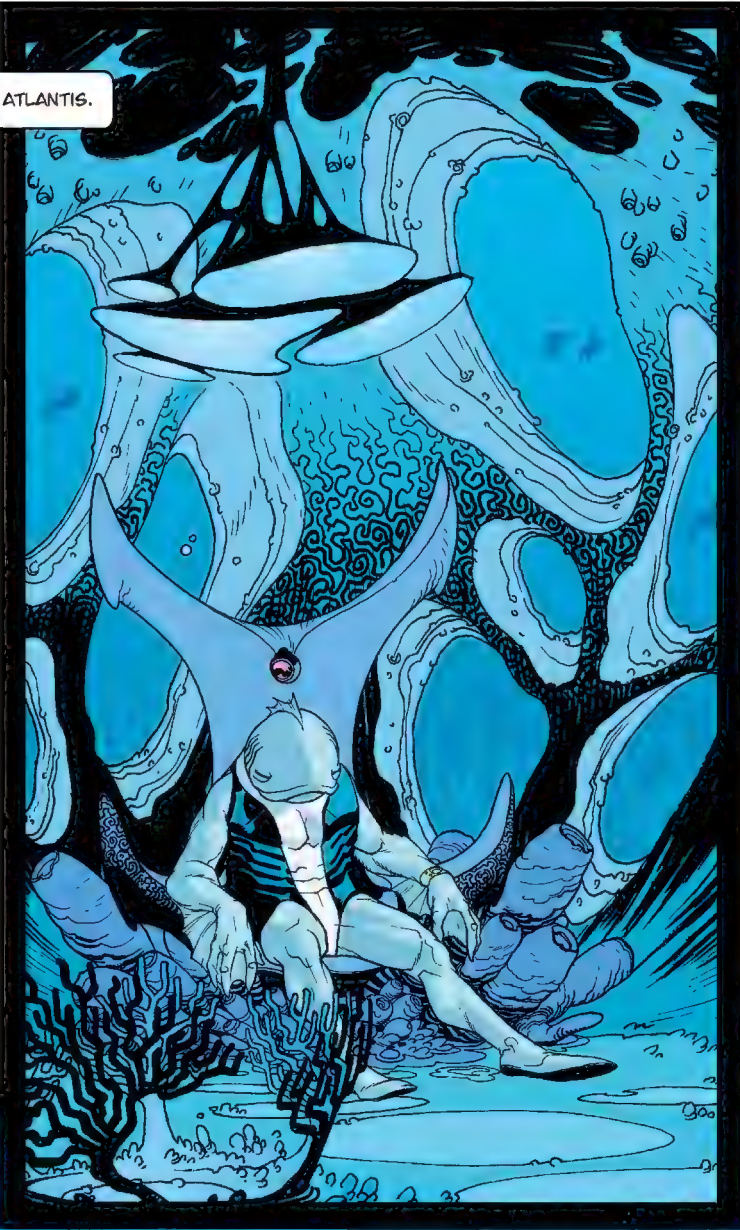
I MUST GO.

BE CAREFUL.

GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE PRIORITY ALERT. RETURN TO BASE IMMEDIATELY.



ATLANTIS.





SPACE.

DIE--FLESH--DIE!

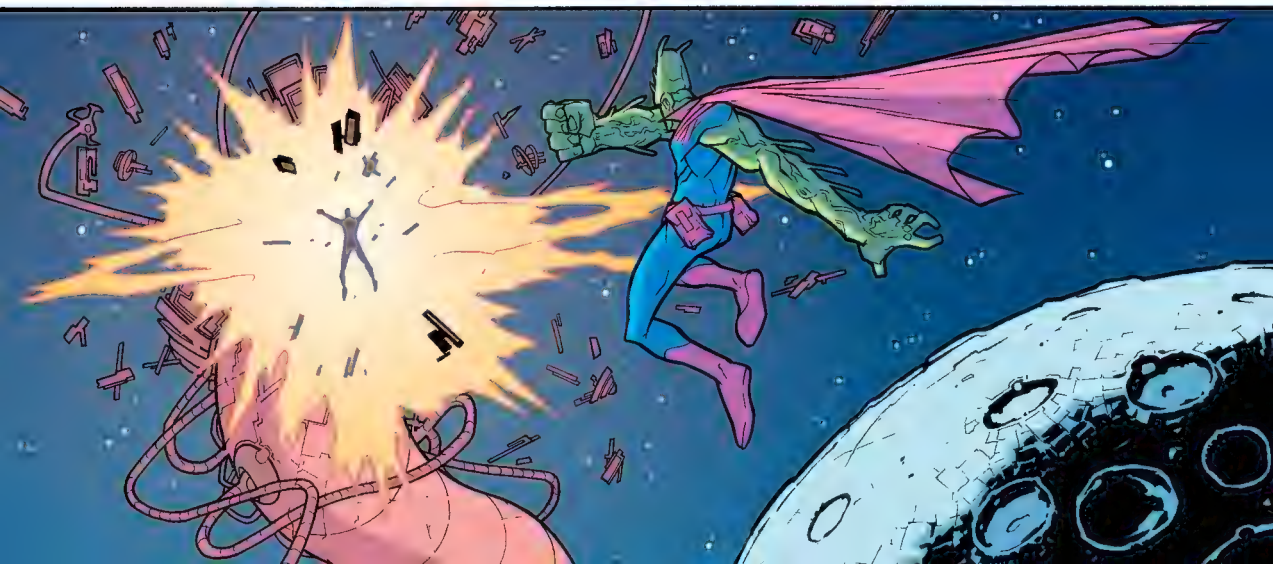
ITS...  
CRUSHING...  
ME...

QUICKLY...  
BEFORE IT  
KILLS US... GO  
INTANGIBLE...  
AND SCRAMBLE  
ITS CIRCUITS!

OH,  
YEAH... I  
FORGOT I  
COULD DO  
THAT!

HERE  
GOES  
NOTHING!

DOES--NOT--  
COMPUTE!





YOU  
OKAY?

I AM  
FINE... WERE  
IT NOT FOR  
YOUR DELAY I  
WOULD BE  
BETTER.



SORRY ABOUT THAT,  
MARTIAN MAN... BUT  
I'VE ONLY BEEN THE  
GREEN GHOST FOR  
A MONTH. I'M STILL  
GETTING USED TO  
THE POWERS.



YOU'RE  
LEARNING  
QUICKLY... YOU  
JUST HAVE A  
LONG WAY  
TO GO.



YOU  
WILL LEARN...  
I AM CONFIDENT  
YOU WERE CHOSEN  
AS MY FRIEND'S  
SUCCESSOR FOR  
A REASON.

I  
HOPE  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

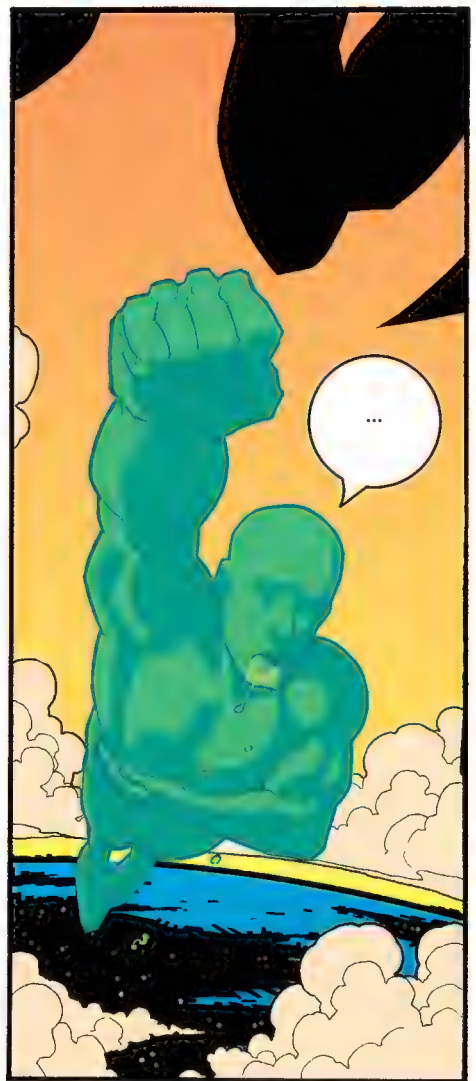
BLANK!



THAT'S  
SOMETHING  
I'M NEVER  
GOING TO  
GET USED  
TO.









HIGH ABOVE DENVER.



I  
THOUGHT  
I WAS RID  
OF ALL YOU  
RIDICULOUS  
VILLAINS!



YOU  
MAY THINK  
OF BI-PLANE  
AS A SILLY VILLAIN  
NOW, IMMORTAL...  
BUT SOON YOU'LL  
SEE THE DAMAGE  
I CAN DO.



PLEASE,  
CHILD... THE  
SUSPENSE  
IS KILLING  
ME.



THIS IS  
IT FOR ME...  
MY LAST  
HURRAH! I'VE GOT  
THE **CANCER**... IN  
MY LYMPH NODES...  
I'M A **GONER**.  
DOC SAYS I'VE GOT  
LESS THAN A  
MONTH.



I'M  
GOING OUT  
WITH A  
BANG!

I'M LACED WITH  
ENOUGH CARCINOGENS,  
AND LOADED DOWN WITH  
ENOUGH HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS TO MAKE  
DENVER GLOW IN  
THE DARK!

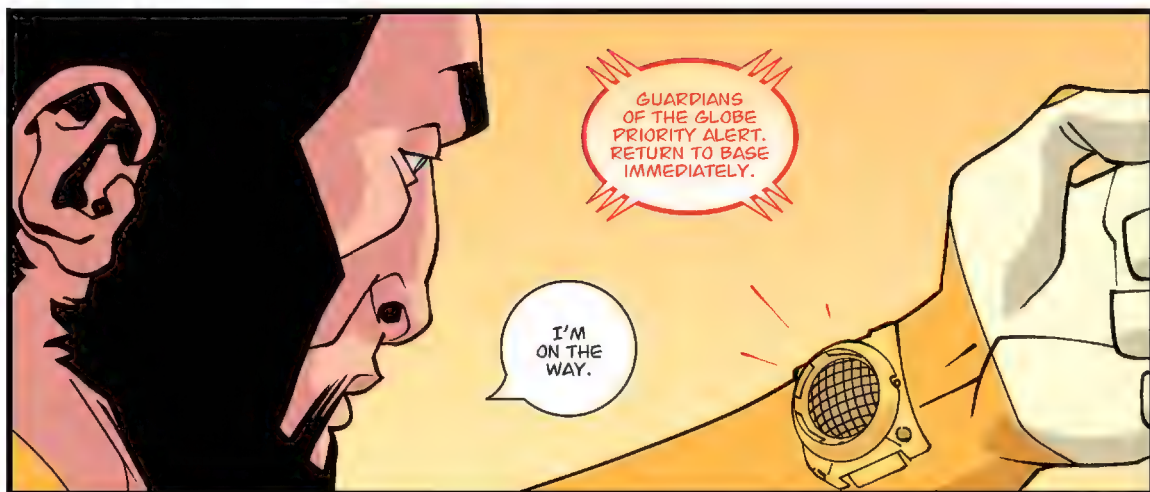
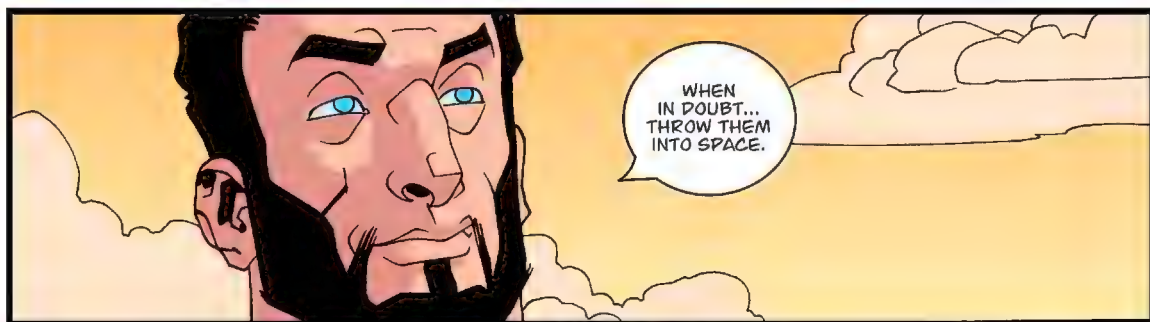
MY POWER  
SOURCE IS  
**URANIUM**! IT'S  
ALL WE HAD TO  
USE IN THE OLD  
DAYS!

YES  
SIRE! THEY  
WON'T KNOW  
WHAT HIT EM!

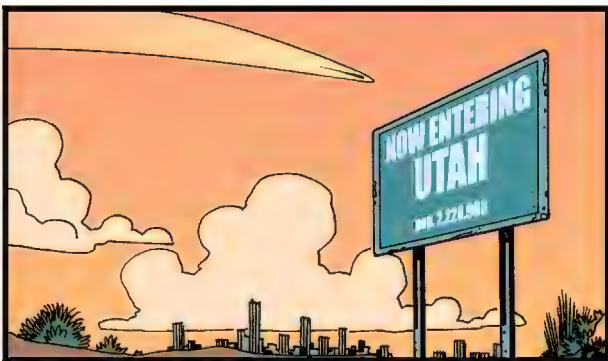
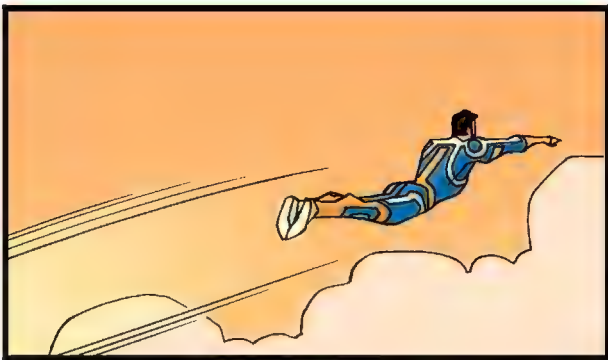


WAIT!  
WHAT'RE  
YOU--











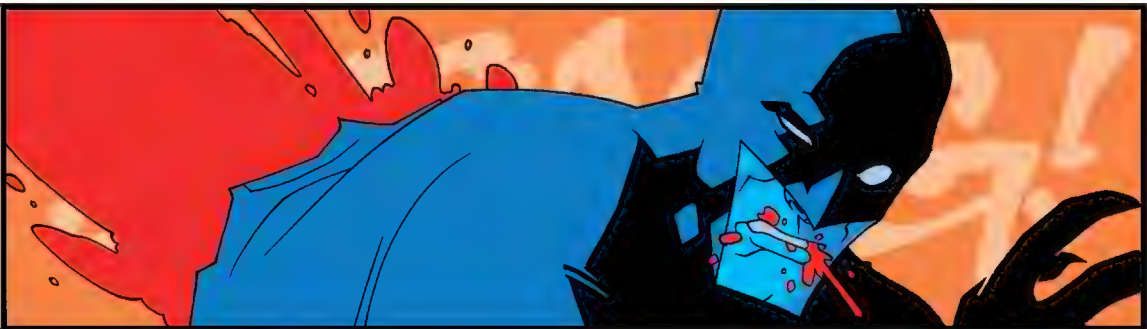
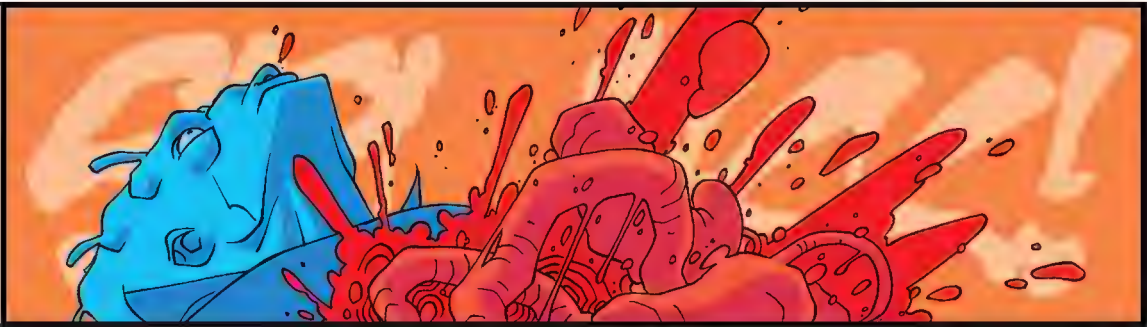
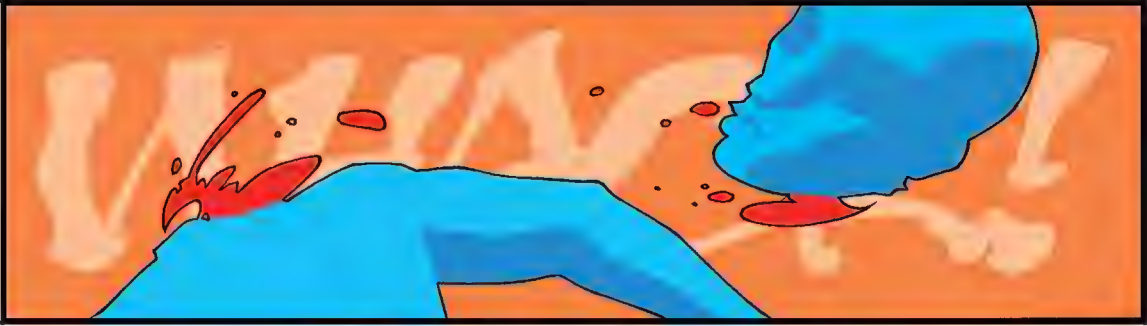


WELL...  
WHAT'S  
THE BIG  
EMERGENCY?

YOU  
DON'T KNOW?  
WE THOUGHT  
YOU WERE THE  
ONE WHO CALLED US  
HERE SINCE NONE  
OF US KNEW WHAT  
WAS GOING ON  
AND YOU HADN'T  
ARRIVED YET.

WHAT  
THE HELL  
IS GOING  
ON?













THE  
FEELING  
WAS  
MUTUAL.







# CHAPTER FOUR







I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY... I-- I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE ALL... DEAD. I CAN'T SEEM TO GET OVER IT. WHO COULD DO SUCH A THING?

HURM.

THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO FIND OUT. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BLACK SAMSON?



WELL... YOU'LL HAVE TO PARDON ME... I'M A LITTLE **SHAKEN** BY ALL THIS. THE NIGHT BEFORE LAST I WAS CALLED TO THE TAILOR'S SHOP... HE'S A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF MINE. HE HAD BEEN DEVELOPING A **SUIT** FOR SAMSON, TO RESTORE THE POWERS HE LOST BEFORE THE GUARDIANS KICKED HIM OUT.

THE SUIT HAD BEEN **STOLEN**.



DO YOU THINK SAMSON WAS CAPABLE OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

NO... NOT AT ALL. HE WASN'T **POWERFUL** ENOUGH TO TAKE ON ANY OF THE GUARDIANS **ALONE** WHEN HE **HAD** HIS POWERS.



IF HE **DID** STEAL THE SUIT HIMSELF... I CAN'T **IMAGINE** IT COULD RESTORE HIM TO FULL POWER. LET **ALONE** MAKE HIM STRONG ENOUGH TO DO WHAT YOU SAID HAPPENED TO THEM.

GOOD POINT... STILL, HE'S THE **PRIME SUSPECT** AT THIS POINT.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE **ELSE** WHO WOULD HAVE MOTIVE TO DO SUCH A THING?



EVE?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?

OH,  
MARK...

IT WAS  
HORRIBLE!

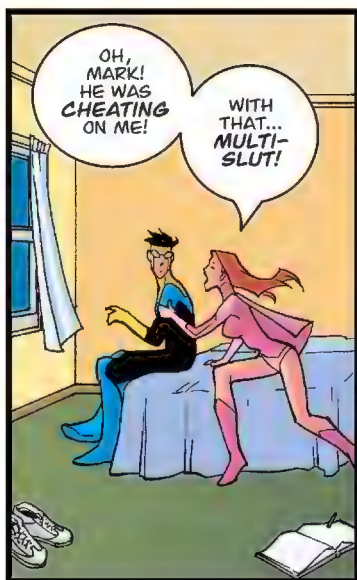
IT WAS  
REX... WITH  
KATE...

...

...AND  
THERE WAS  
MORE THAN  
ONE OF  
HER!



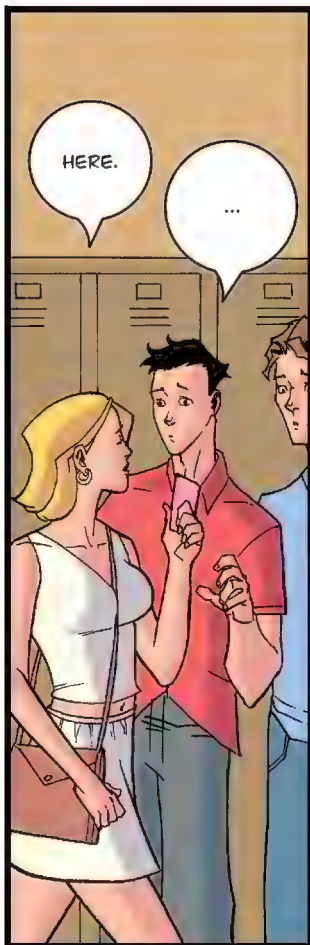
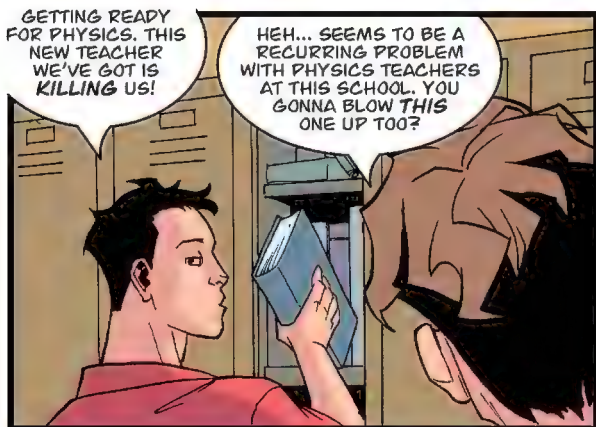
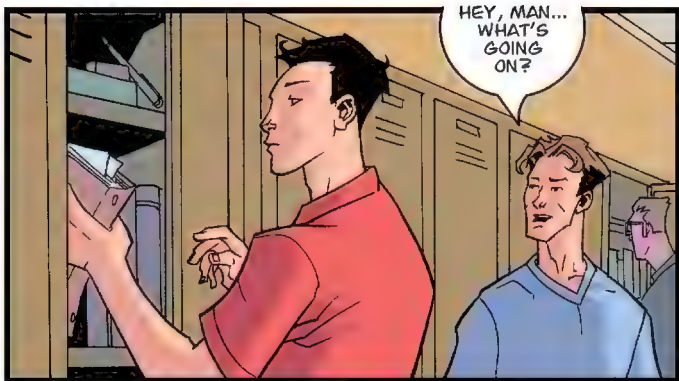




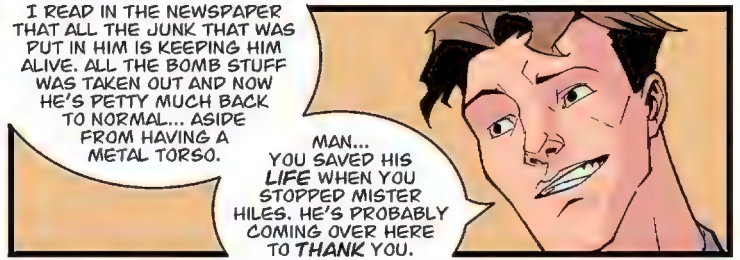
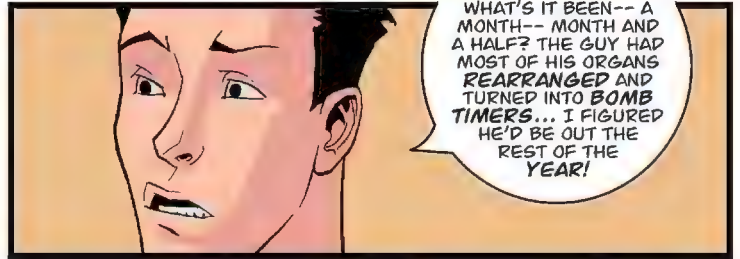




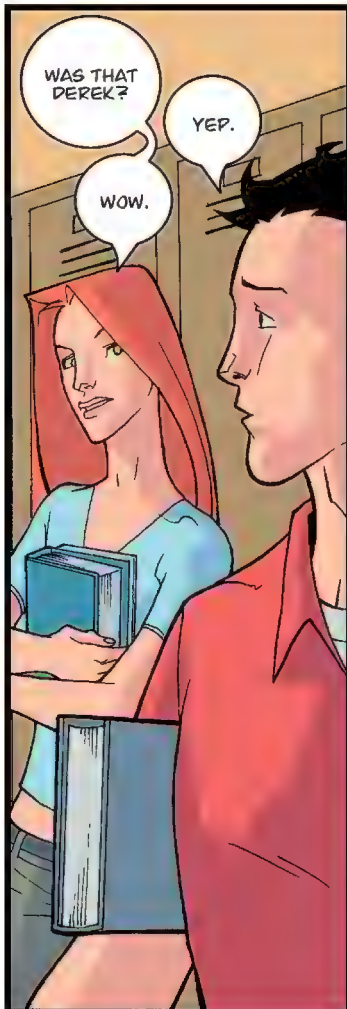
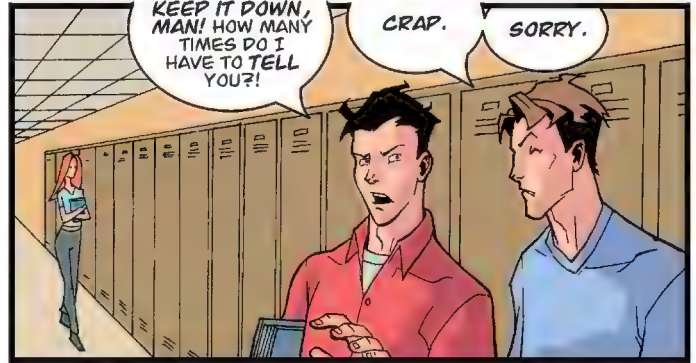
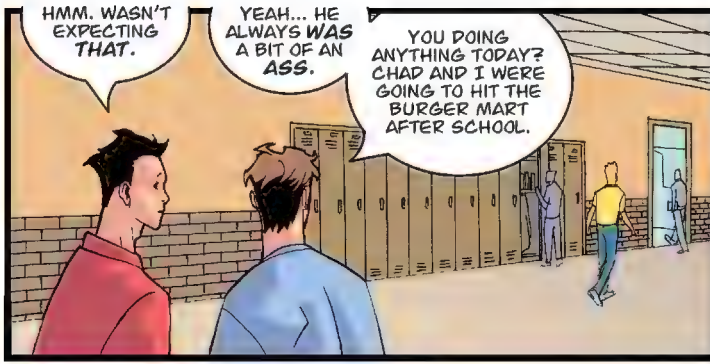




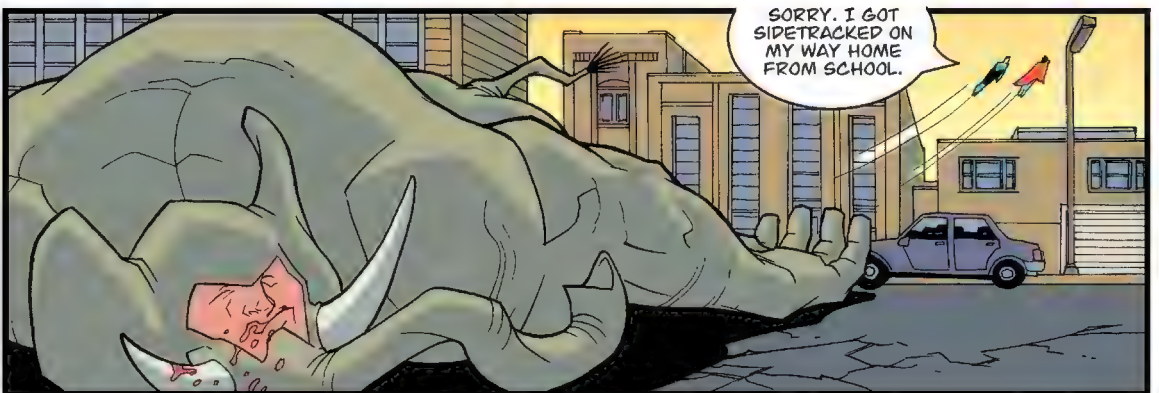
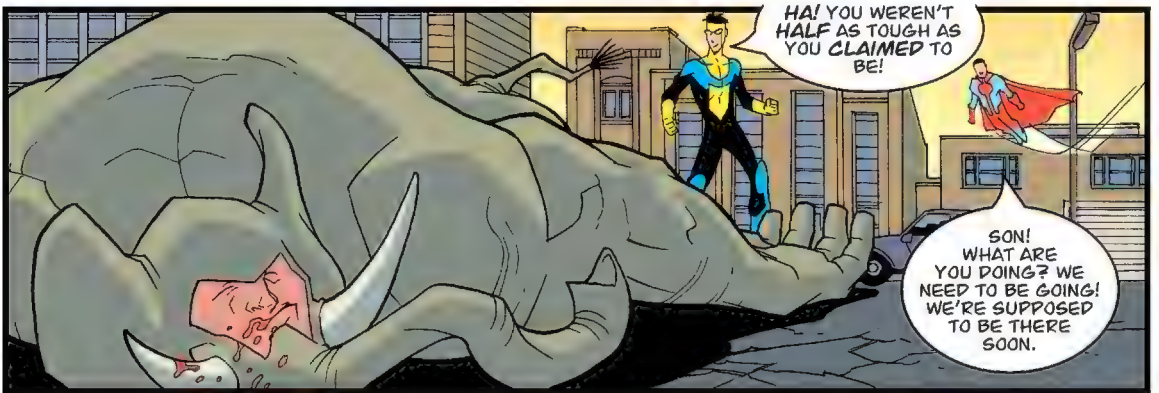




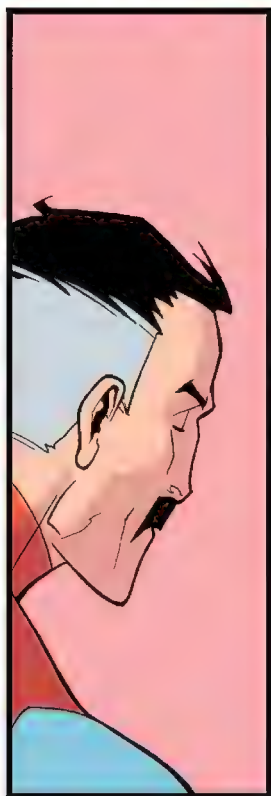
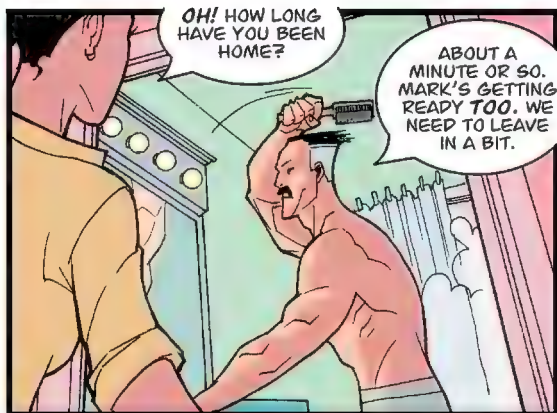




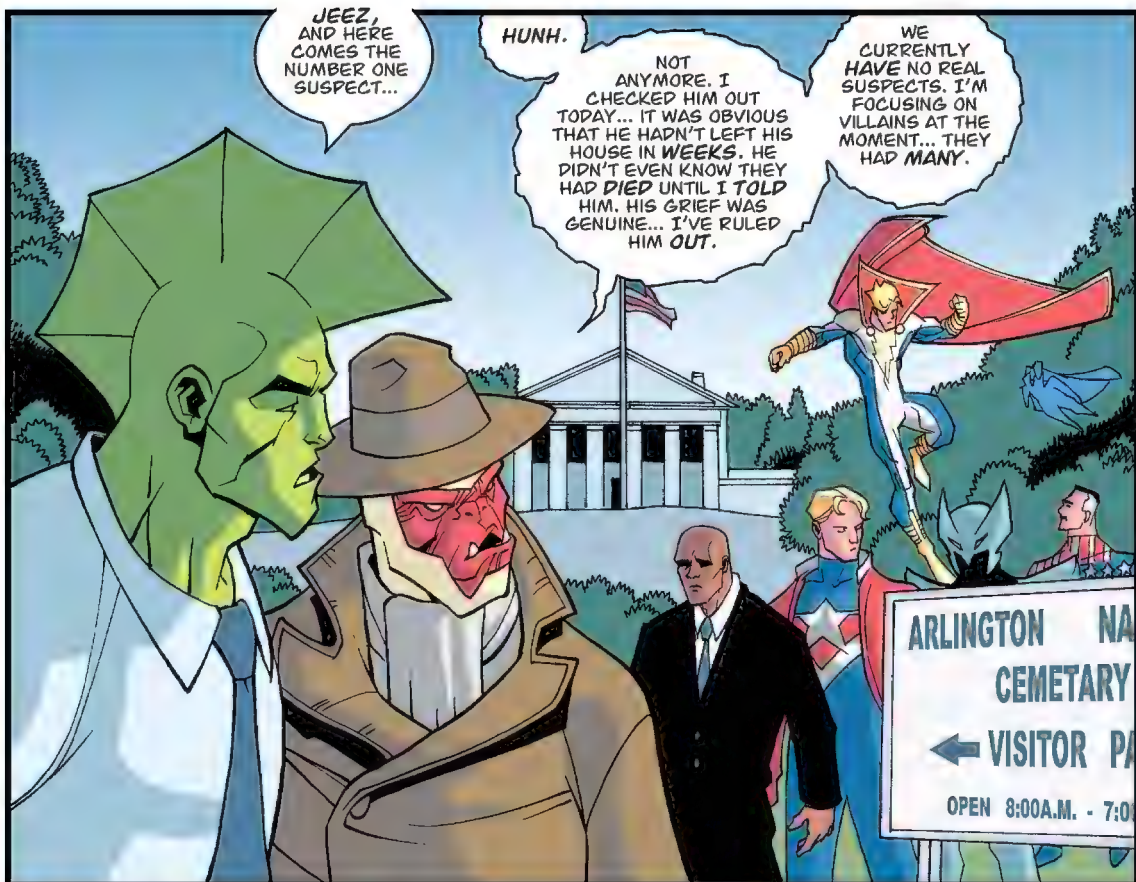














WE ARE GATHERED  
HERE TO REMEMBER  
THE GREATEST TEAM  
OF SUPER-HEROES  
THE WORLD HAS  
EVER KNOWN.

THAT I'VE  
KNOWN...

I'VE BEEN  
WORKING WITH  
THE GUARDIANS OF  
THE GLOBE SINCE  
I CAME TO EARTH...  
THEY WERE MENTORS  
TO ME EARLY  
ON IN MY  
CAREER.

THE IMMORTAL,  
DARKWING, THE  
GREEN GHOST, WAR  
WOMAN, THE RED RUSH,  
MARTIAN MAN, AND  
AQUARUS. NAMES WE'LL  
NEVER FORGET. PEOPLE  
THAT WILL GO DOWN  
IN HISTORY...



LEGENDS...  
TAKEN FROM  
US BEFORE  
THEIR TIME.  
WE--



WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?!



PLEASE CONTINUE...  
WE DO NOT WISH  
TO CAUSE A  
SCENE.

WE ARE  
HERE TO PAY OUR  
RESPECTS TO A WORTHY  
ADVERSARY. NOTHING  
MORE, WE WILL NOT  
INTERFERE WITH THE  
PROCEEDINGS.

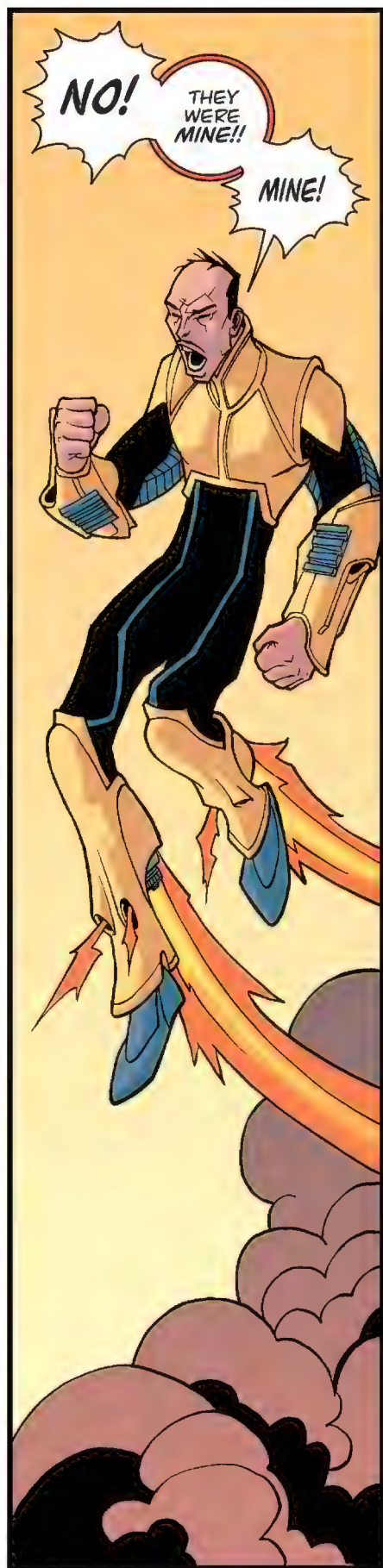


DAD,  
I'LL KEEP  
AN EYE ON  
THEM.

I DON'T  
THINK THEY'LL  
TRY ANYTHING  
WITH ALL OF  
US HERE.







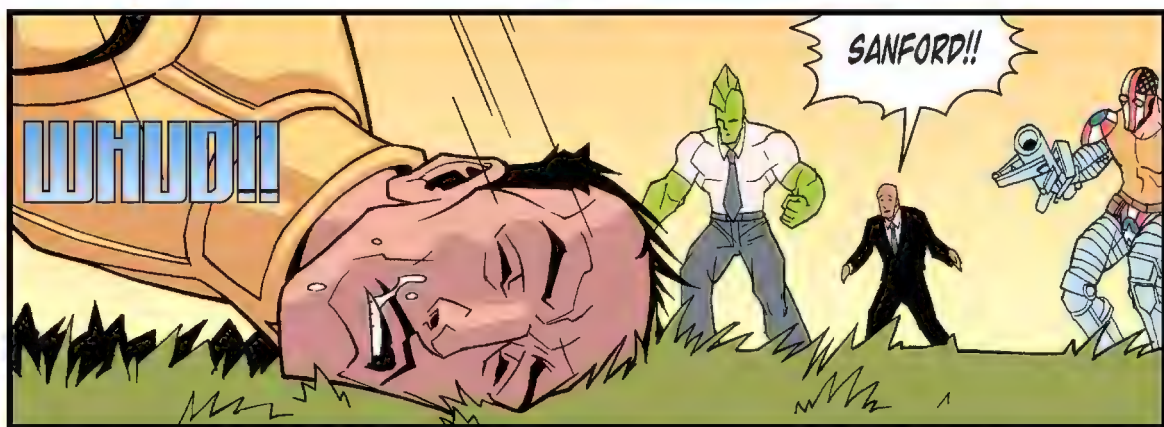
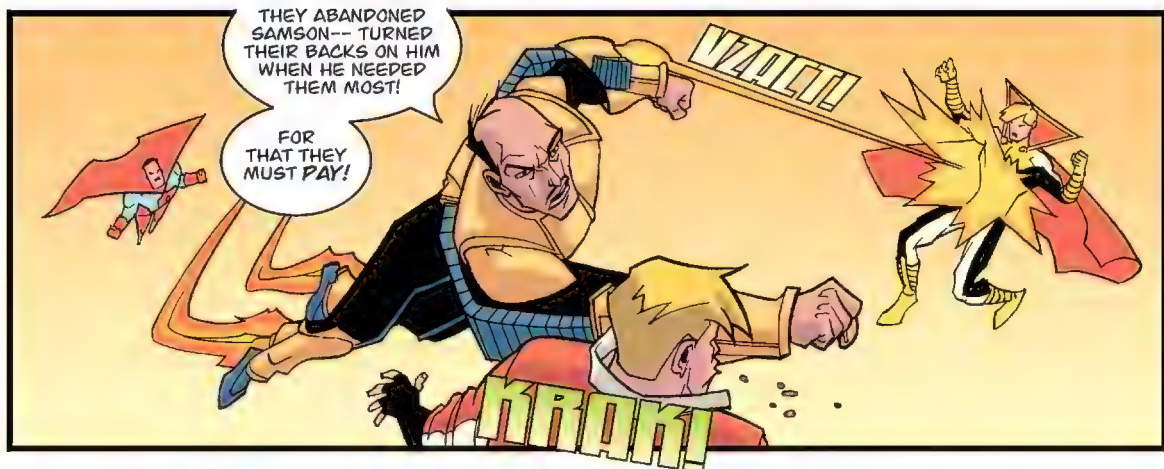




GET ANGEL TO SAFETY, JENNIFER.



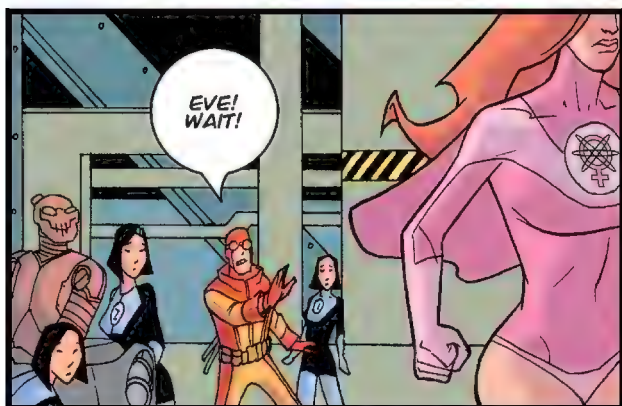
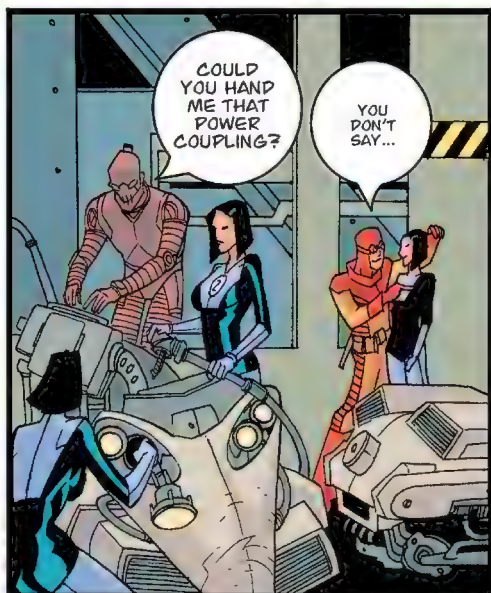
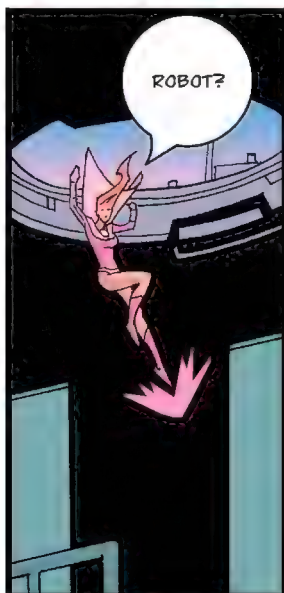




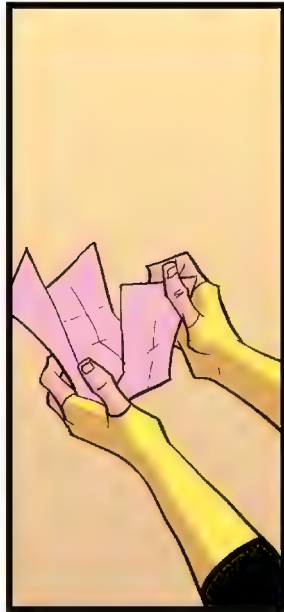








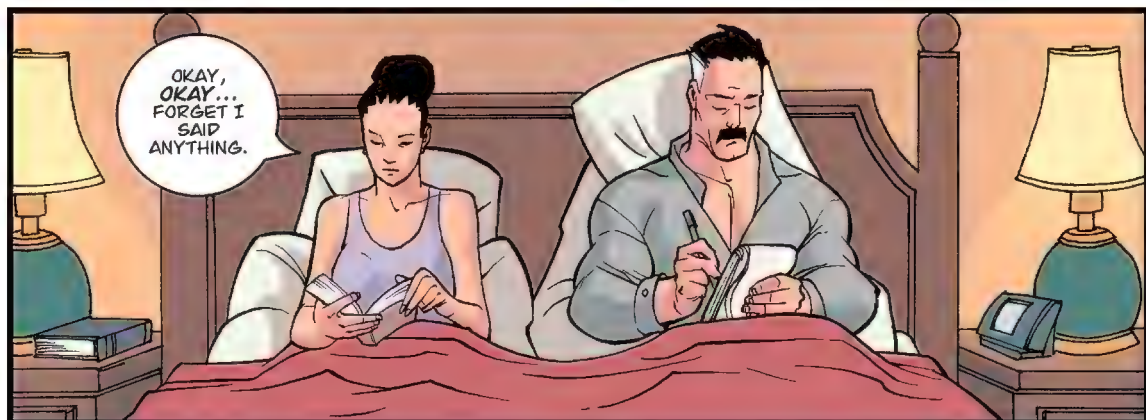
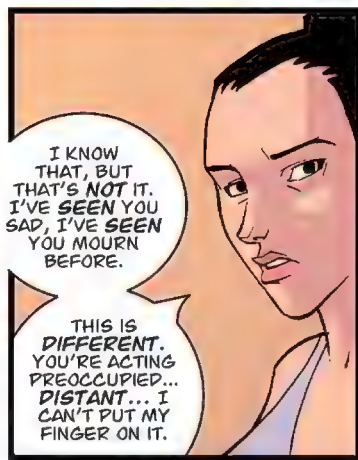
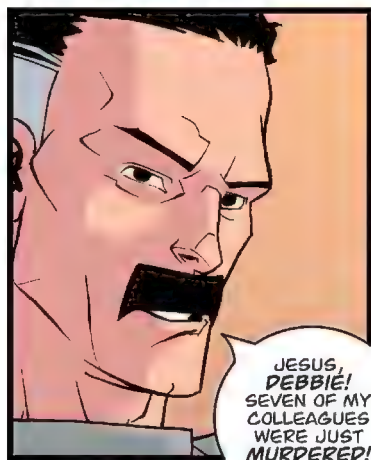
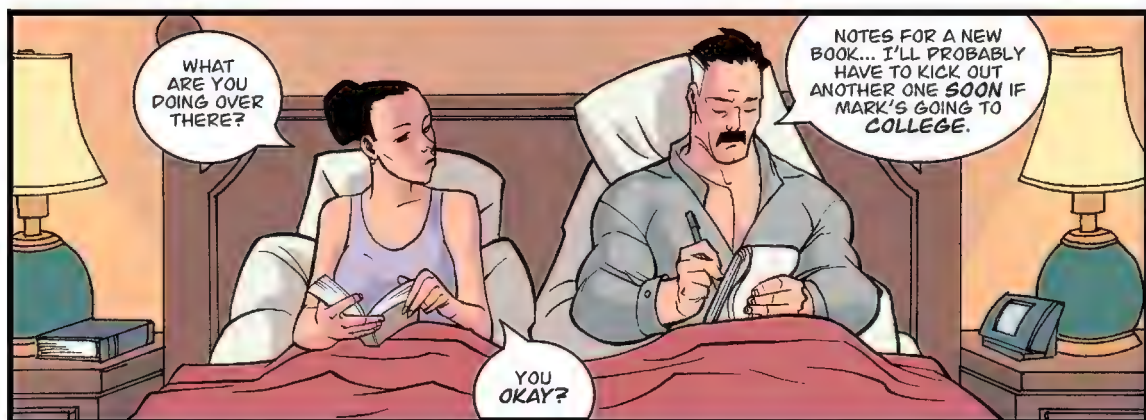




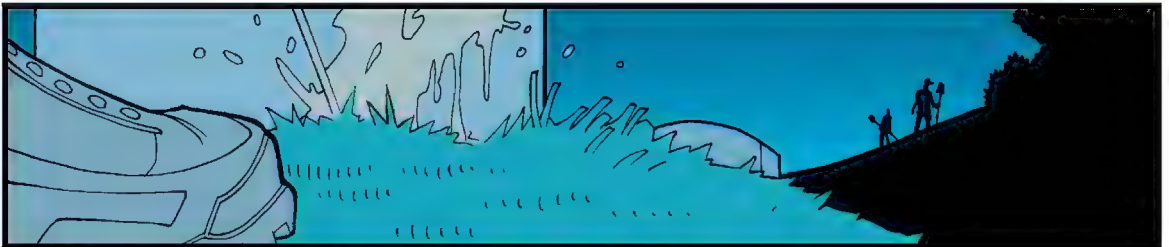
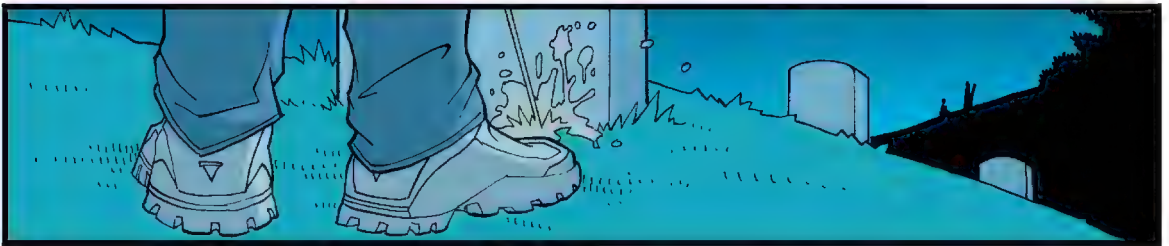
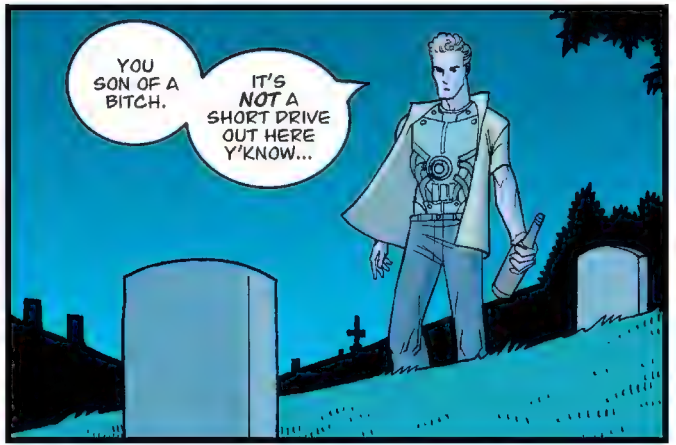
















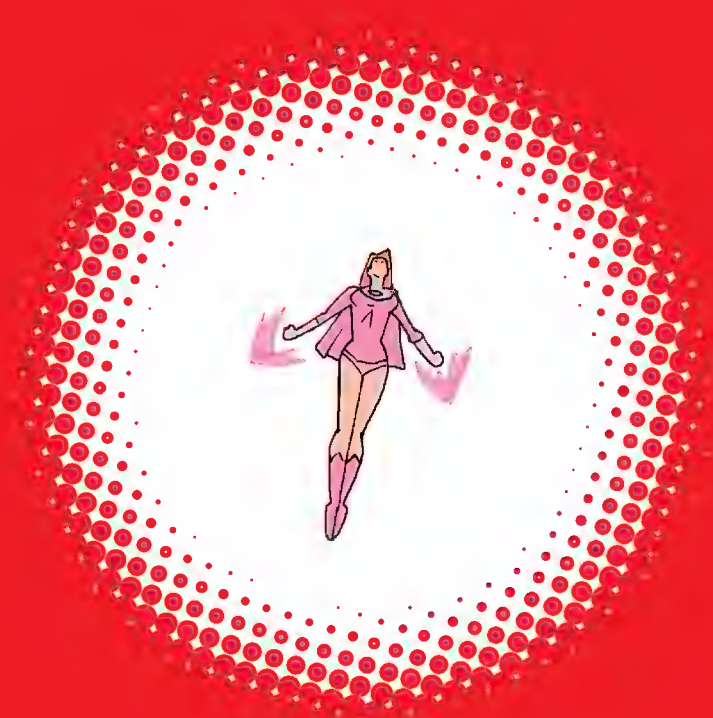


WE'LL  
TAKE IT FROM  
HERE, BOYS. YOU  
HAVE NO IDEA  
THE TIME  
YOU'VE SAVED  
US.

INDEED.









# COVERS

# SKETCHBOOK



When it came time to do this collection... I'll be honest. I had no idea what to call this book, or what would be on the cover. The first arc was easy, I had that title planned early on, and Kurt Busiek was kind enough to suggest the cover image. This arc was different... it was almost all set up for things that are coming up. Of course, the big Omni-Man event in issue 7 is the most important thing in the book, but I didn't want to spoil that. Then I came up with "Eight is Enough," based on the fact that there's seven guardians of the globe, and with Omni-Man, that's eight. It worked. But then those fine folks at Image laid down more wisdom and said it probably wasn't a good idea to do a TPB without the title character on the cover. You'd think this is something we wouldn't need to be told... sigh. Anyway, changes were made but now you can see the first version of this trade in all it's glory as well as the design sketch Cory sent in before he drew it. Enjoy!









Here are Cory's layouts to the cover to issues 5 and 7. He pretty much nailed these on the first pass. In fact, I think Cory had the idea for the cover to issue 5 before we had decided what was going to be in issue 5. Meaning... he wanted to do Mark floating in space on a cover but had no idea what issue, if any, we could do it on. Accommodating fella that I am... I said: "That's



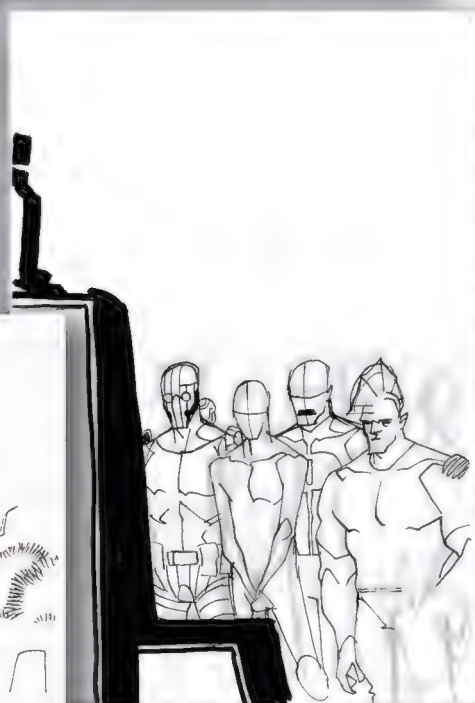
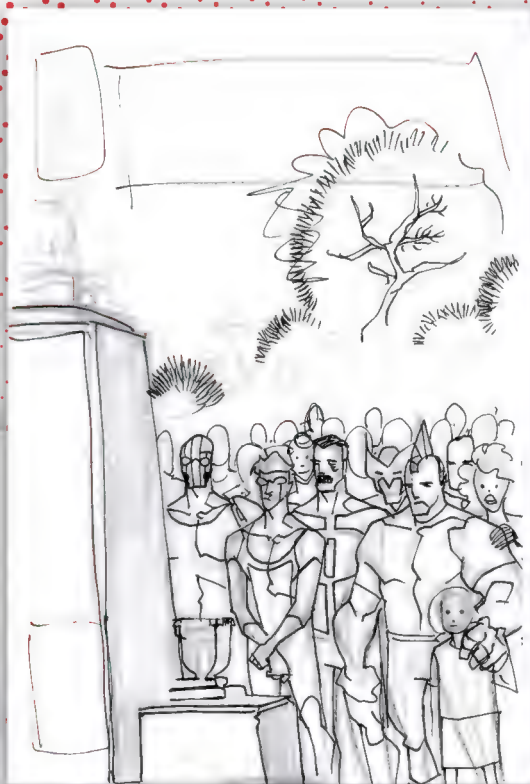


The cover to issue 6 didn't come on the first try but it came pretty easily. For this one I told Cory: "They visit the college in this issue, and they should fight something there... go crazy and I'll work it into the story." That to me is pretty fun, figuring stuff out based on a cover. Now, having read issue 6 you may think "He didn't come up with diddly squat! He never explained anything!" Well... trust me... we'll be coming back to that eventually, so stay tuned. Also on this page is Cory's shadow guide for the cover. Cory likes to map out where the shadows are for Bill. I think they always look cool and figured it be fun to share just this once.





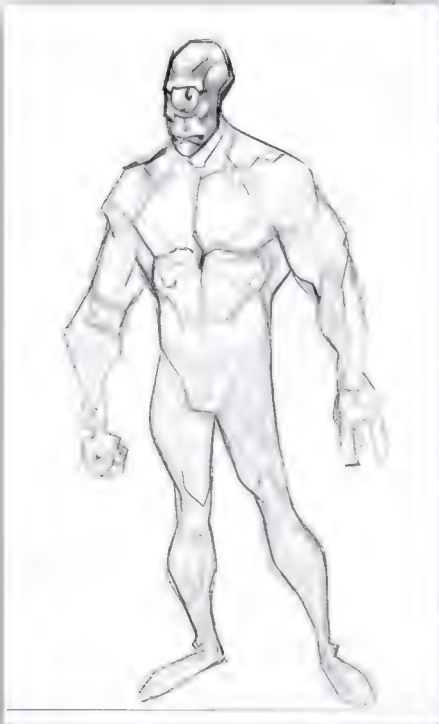
The cover to issue 8 wasn't quite as easy to nail down. Must have been all those cameos that threw him.







After a brief cameo in issue 2, Allen the Alien finally made his startlingly cool debut in issue 5. We've got big plans for this guy... he's one of my favorite characters that has appeared in the book. I think Cory and Ryan also enjoy the heck out of drawing the guy. I think it's the eye.

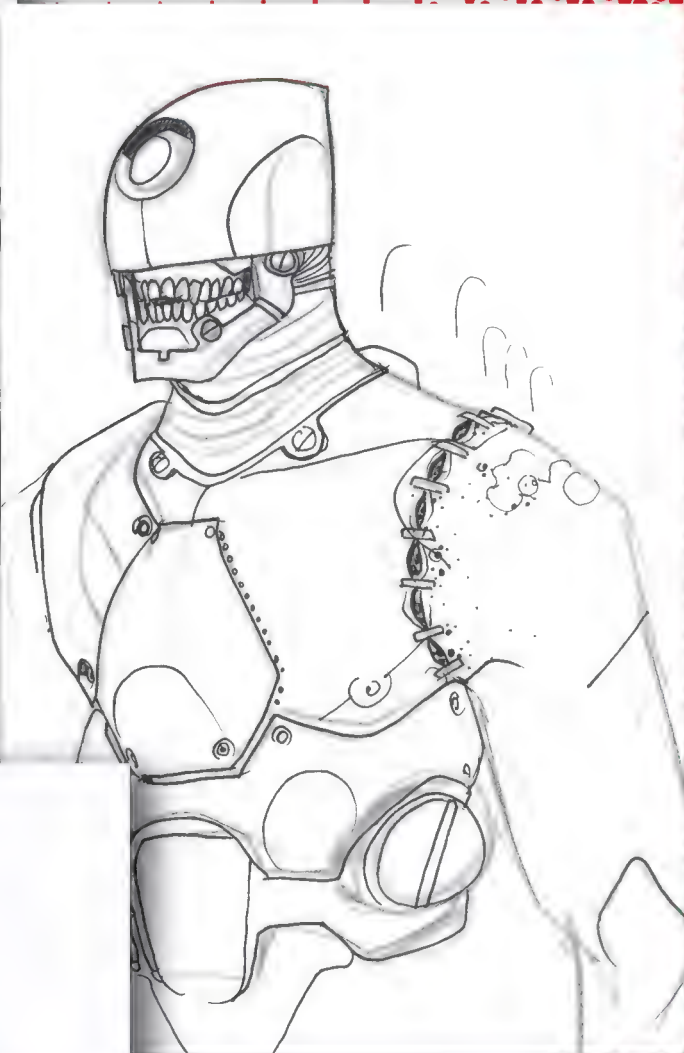
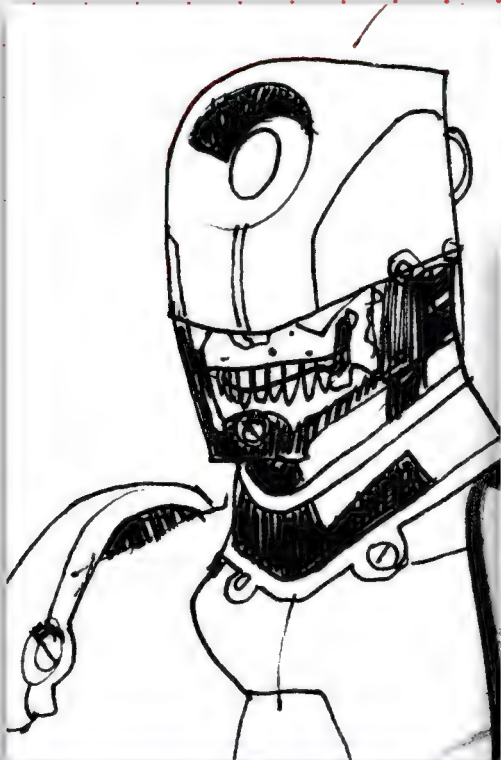




Here are some rough layouts for pages from issue 6. You'll notice that Cory eventually decided the college panel would look better without a background... the slacker.



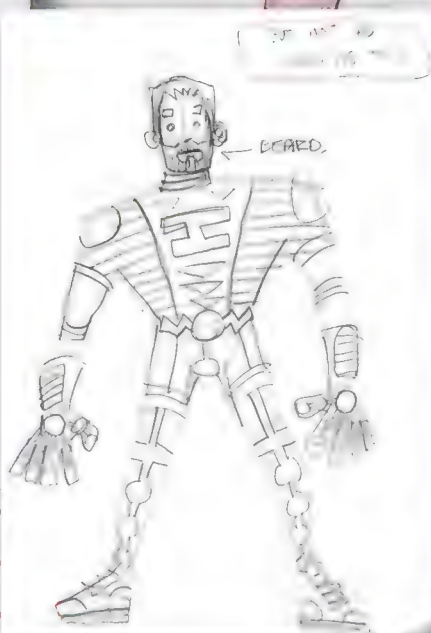




Designs for the "monster" from issue 6. I think Cory did such a great job on this guy... he really is fun to look at. You just can't go wrong with robots with exposed



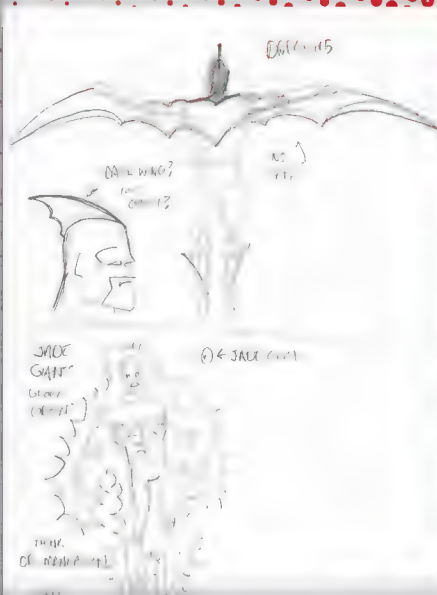
Now, for the fun stuff. I know that on the surface the Guardians of the Globe look like a JLA parody, but well... that's what they were always supposed to be... I mean... I have 18 pages to introduce them all and make readers care about them before I killed them. Using archetypes is the best way to do that. What I'm getting at is that after everything was said and done... I really fell in love with a few of them, and wished they weren't dead. Case in point, The Immortal... I love this guy. He just looks SO DANG COOL. The ugly one on the page was drawn by yours truly... sorry.







I kinda like Darkwing too. I'm so glad Cory didn't put the wing on his head... talk about stupid design. There's a little bit of Green Ghost action on the page too, but

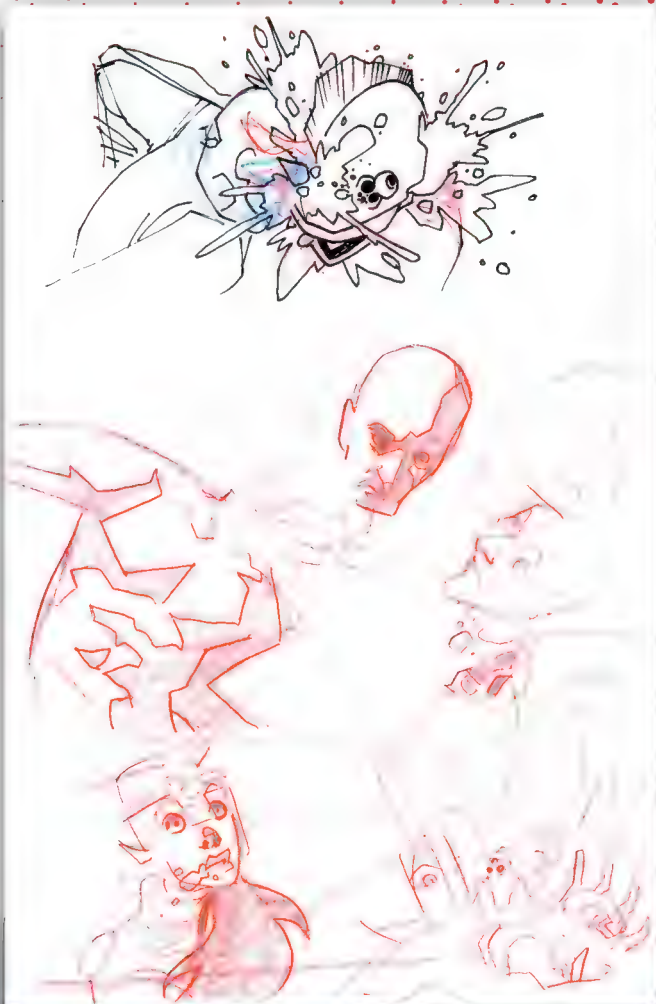




Red Rush and Aquarus. Man oh man Dave Johnson really kicked butt on his Aquarus page. I still can't believe he agreed to draw that, Dave... you're the





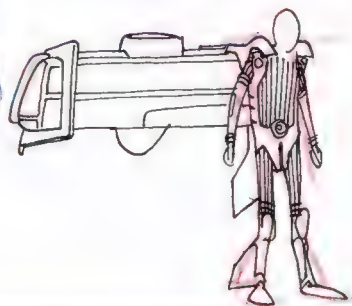


Some sketches from issue 7. I was really worried that the kill scenes in issue 7 would piss people off. Up to that point the book had been pretty much all ages. I wanted the scenes to be graphic so that they would stand out, and then when the page came in from Cory... well... it was graphic. Good stuff all around, Cory draws organs pretty well.





Bi-plane... oh, bi-plane... so cool, so ridiculous.  
You WILL see Bi-plane again, believe it or not.







The Elephant is all Cory's fault. Blame him. I had NOTHING to do with that guy.







Here are some random headshots by Cory. I like the big one a lot. Over there on the right should be the cover the Hellhounds/Invincible crossover by Cory. I just wanted to make sure you folks got to see it.





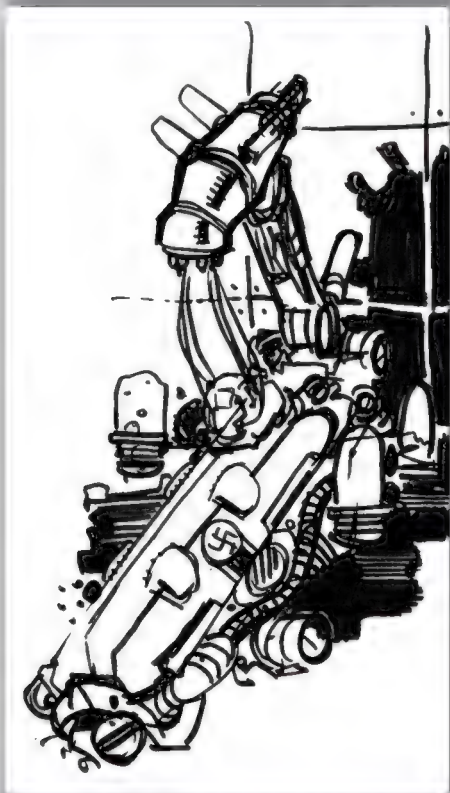
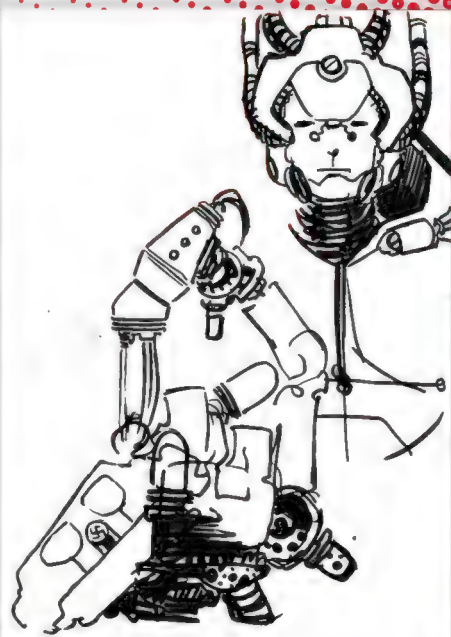






On this page are some early sketches I probably should have run in the first TPB. Sue me. On the opposite page here you should see some cool designs for robots and stuff. I like it when Cory goes crazy with the marker... neat stuff, I'm sure you'll agree.









Science Dog is Mark's favorite comic, but it's also a book that Cory and I put a pitch together for before we did SuperPatriot: America's Fighting Force for Image. Cory and I plan on doing an actual comic with the guy one day... but how soon that will be is anyone's guess. Below are the covers for issue 1 and 2 and some promo art... figured I might as well share this stuff and not let it go to waste. On the opposite page there is the illo that appears as a poster on Mark's wall in the book. It's actually a drawing Cory did for my birthday while we were working on the early issues of Invincible. I liked it better than the poster we had been using so Mark gets



a new Science Dog poster in issue 5. I think Bill has to color it every time... so he hates the thing. On the next page... you'll see a full color page from Science Dog that Jason Keith did as a sample. Jason was snapped up by Crossgen back when they were throwing money around like crazy, he's a hell of a colorist and I thought it would be wrong for this thing to never see print. Feel free to write us and demand more Science Dog... it might actually get us to do the book sooner.



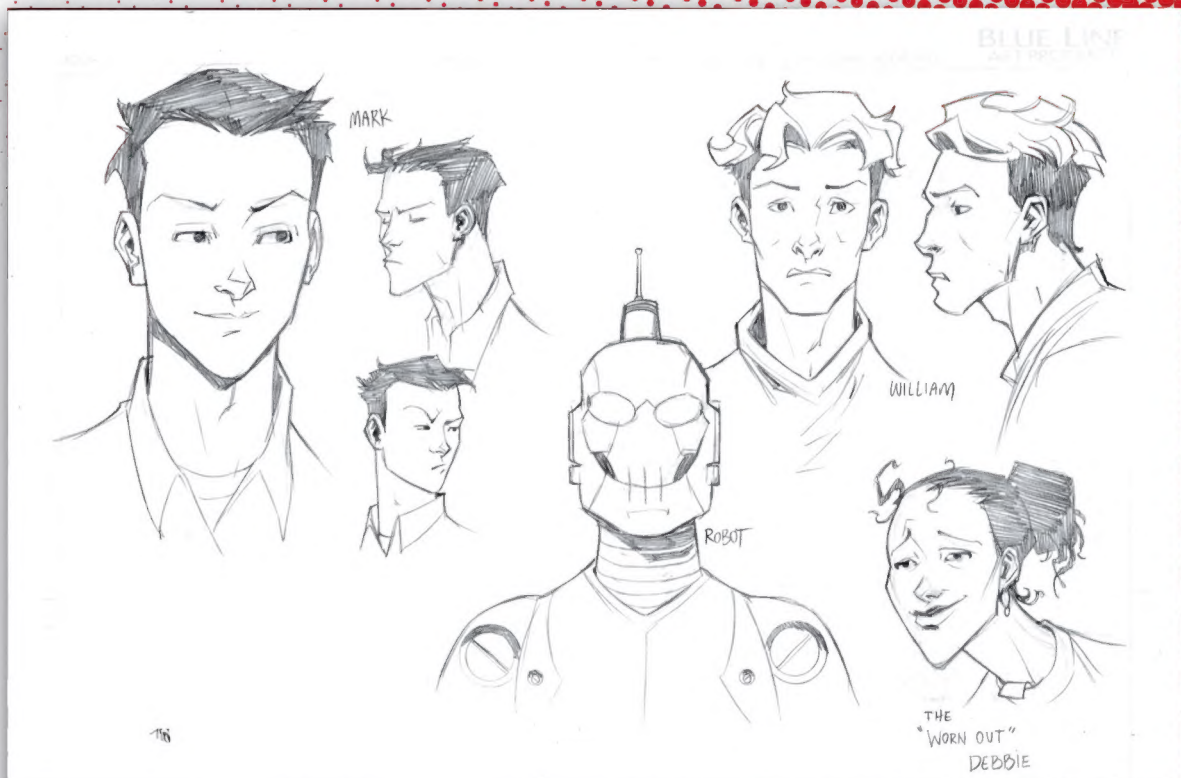












Some sketches from Ryan Ottley, the new series artist. Ryan just dove into the pages of issue 8 so there's really not that much sketch stuff to show. Needless to say he nailed all the characters and I couldn't be happier with what he's done with the book. When Cory started having trouble getting the book out on time, he decided to step aside and let Ryan take over. Now Ryan is blazing through issues at lightning speed, and Cory is working on a project with a much looser deadline that will blow you away when it sees print. All is right in the world.



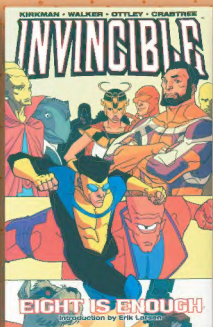
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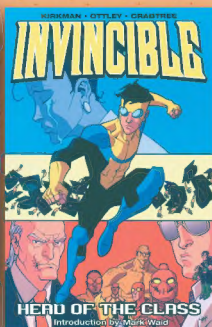
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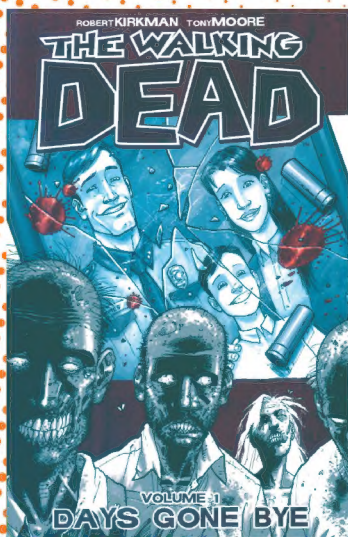
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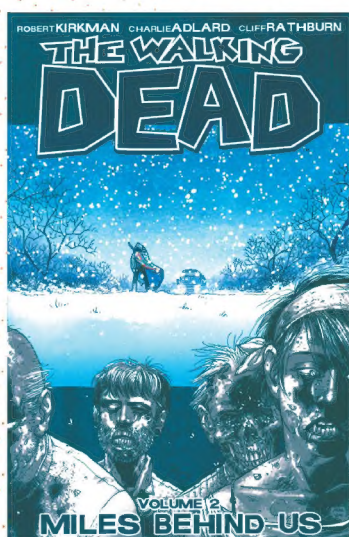
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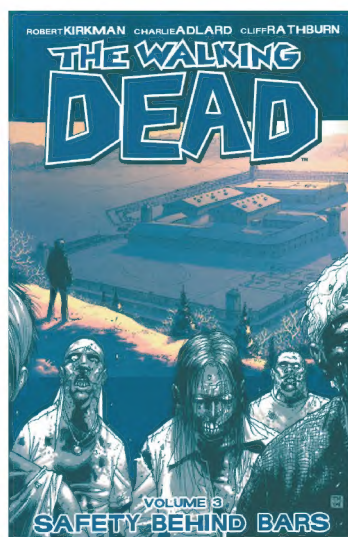
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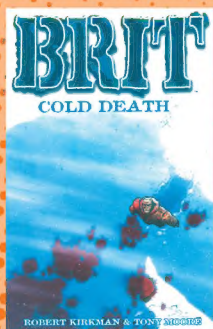
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